

WARREN  
MAGAZINE

ALL NEW STORIES AND ART! PLUS COLOR!

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VAMPI  
#32

APRIL 1974

# VAMPIRELLA

WHAT IS THE SECRET  
OF THE PLAGUE?  
CAN EVEN  
VAMPIRELLA  
WITHSTAND  
THE CURSE...

...THAT  
ROTS FLESH  
FROM THE  
BONES OF MEN?  
"RUNNING  
RED!"



PLUS: "HARRY" A CLASSIC TALE OF GOTHIC HORROR  
WITH ART BY JEFF JONES AND COLOR BY RICH CORBEN!

**THERE'S A BRAND NEW  
WARREN MAGAZINE  
ON SALE RIGHT NOW!**

# **THE SPIRIT**



Here's a puzzle any amateur sleuth can solve. What does a man from the future, a death-bound trolley, three escaped convicts, and a murderous seven-year-old have in common? Give up? The answer's simple. They're all featured in the first issue of the new action-filled mystery magazine, **THE SPIRIT**. The Spirit: Will Eisner's revolutionary crime-fighter of the forties, dread avenger from beyond the grave. The Spirit: Two-fisted agent of justice . . . and Warren Publishing's boldest magazine to date. The first collector's edition is on sale NOW! Find **THE SPIRIT** . . . before HE finds YOU!

**ON SALE NOW!!**



**OUR COVER**

Vampi gets more than she bargained for when the man of her dreams meets "The Running Red." Behind this cover painting of Vampi and her hapless love is artist Enrich.

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# VAMPIRELLA

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**CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS:** Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



## "The Corben art continually boggles my mind!"

I sit here with VAMPIRELLA #30 before me, and I am totally amazed at the new things that keep springing up in the Warren line. The first recent change was the color sections. Not satisfied with 'just' color spreads, you turn in the next big advance, Richard Corben! The Corben art continually boggles my mind! And yet, this is still not all. We are now to be placed in the almost staggering position of once again witnessing a step forward for Warren-kind in the long-awaited (but greatly appreciated) return of Frank Frazetta. Now that Frazetta is back, I hope whoever draws the interiors on "Luana" will complement Frazetta's cover art.

One is now forced to wonder what new wizardry is brewing in the minds of the people at Warren!

STEVEN JOHN  
Wichita, Kan.

Just a short note to tell you that VAMPIRELLA #30 was sensational. "Memoirs of a Killer" was just great, and I loved "Pantha." "Captain Death" was simply maddening! You should have more great stories like these.

CONNIE GILBERT  
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Your magazine has hit some Loew points lately, due to some pretty nice stories by Flaxman Loew, who is certainly a very able successor to Archie Goodwin. He adds dimension to the personality of VAMPIRELLA as an individual, as a member of an alien race, and as a woman. Far out, Flax! (By the way, what's your real name?) I must agree with Alcyone Elliot, though. She believed, more or less, that Adam Van Helsing is a necessary element in making your stories more interesting. Although I would like to see more of Adam, I don't want to see him (or his father and Pendy) in every single issue. A little moderation, please. And judging from fan reaction in recent letter columns, this seems to be your best course of action.

Auraleon is doing a nice job with the "Pantha" series. His first installment in VAMPI #30 was far out! And Fernando Fernandez... need I say more? "Captain Death" was very strange, and I can hardly wait to read "Luana."

Say, VAMPI. Rumor has it that yet a fifth Warren mag will soon be out. Any comment?

STEVEN SCHEIBNER  
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

The 'rumor' is true, and the magazine is THE SPIRIT. In case your newsstand is sold out, you can order a copy directly from WARREN PUBLISHING.

VAMPI, you really outdid yourself in issue #30. Tell me, is "Pantha" going to become a regular in your mag? I certainly hope so. "As Though They Were Living" was great! Keep Rich Corben until he dies, and maybe even after that. His art is the best in the history of your mag. The rest of the stories were 'Grade A.' As for the vampire-toothed worms of Spain, I'd never heard of them.

Keep "History of Vampires" coming! And finally, in "God of Blood," how do you pronounce Huitzilopochtli?

FREDDY COLE  
Centerville, Ga.

Well, to answer the easy question first, Huitzilopochtli is pronounced "Wits-ill-o-pock-tull-i." And yes, "Pantha" will be a regular feature in VAMPIRELLA.

San Julian is just about the all-time greatest Warren cover artist. But when I read the latest edition of "Vampi's Vault," I almost fell over. Frank Frazetta is back. For me and probably a lot of others, Frazetta is a 'complete' artist. His paperback book illustrations and Warren work are unsurpassed. Covers like VAMPI #7 and CREEPY #7 cannot be topped by anyone!

So in case I haven't made it clear, welcome back Frank Frazetta!

JOE GUBOCKI  
Tucson, Ariz.

In all honesty, I am worried about the way in which the character of my favorite vampiress is being handled. The idea of a subconscious mental block against taking human life would, I feel, destroy the mystery and allure of VAMPIRELLA. I believe that a great deal of her popularity is due to the contrasts in her personality. She is more than just a beautiful heroine. Our VAMPI is different because with every spin of the globe, she might (and occasionally does) change suddenly from that beautiful, gentle woman to a savage, unreasoning killer, a danger to all around her. Including those for whom she cares.

VAMPI'S inner-struggle is an interesting one to follow, as are the exploits with her comrades. And fears about what she has done before and may do again at any time are what make her more than just a comic strip character. Take this quality away from VAMPIRELLA, and she will lose her uniqueness.

SCOTT STANSBURY  
Seattle, Wa.

Well, you folks down at Warren Publishing blew it again. I have become very attached to VAMPI's bat tattoo. In VAMPIRELLA #30, Jose Gonzalez (who, I think, is the best comic artist around) failed to include the little tattoo. Just wanted to let you know!

Generally, the artwork in this issue was excellent. Except on the cover, that is, where Enrich made VAMPIRELLA look as if she's put on a little weight. I hope this isn't so. Also, he forgot the bracelet on VAMPI'S left wrist. But I don't want you to think that all I did was go mistake-hunting! Steve Skeates' story "Pantha: Rebirth" was very good, and all in all, VAMPI #30 was a very fine issue.

FRANK NUNEZ  
Sanger, Cal.

Although I've been a comic book collector for years, and purchase over fifty different comics each month, yours is the first magazine to which I am writing.

Generally speaking, your cover artist, Enrich, is the greatest artist in the business, and the writers who produce your stories should give themselves a hearty pat on the back. So no complaint there. But issue #30 just didn't have enough of VAMPI in it! Only twelve pages of story! How about a special issue with a full-length VAMPIRELLA adventure.

MOISIS MELENDEZ  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I think your mag is just about the finest in the world because of the super color and the super stories!

As for issue #30, "The God of Blood" was good, but bring back Adam and his father. "Pantha" is one wild character, and I'm glad Steve Skeates is scripting her. No other writer could do her justice. And Auraleon's art was the best I've ever seen it!

"As Though They Were Living" was the greatest in terms of art and coloring, and the story wasn't bad either! "Memoirs of a Killer" and "Captain Death" weren't that great storywise, but the art was good. C'mon! Flaxman Loew has got to be a pseudonym. No one has a name like that!

Personally, I'd like to see some change in VAMPI'S attire as Sheila Thorton of Brooklyn suggested. I'd like to see VAMPI in hot pants and in many other different styles of clothing as well. By the way, I can tell "Luana" is gonna be one far-out chick!

STEVE HORNBECK  
Lake Katrine, N.Y.



Competition for VAMPI? Some of our readers seem to think so. Her name is Susan, and she's the brutal PANTHA. Her third adventure is featured in this issue of VAMPIRELLA.

## "Keep 'History of Vampires'"

I think that VAMPIRELLA #30 was excellent. I have only recently started collecting your magazine, but it's already one of my favorites! My other favorites, of course, are CREEPY and EERIE.

**TIM MODERSON**  
Bolingbrook, Ill.

A number of interesting comments appeared in the fan page of VAMPIRELLA #30, and I'd like to take this opportunity to express my own feelings on the subject in question.

Those who are against the return of Adam Van Helsing and his father, to the VAMPIRELLA series, have valid arguments. A few of them might go as follows:

1) Tying VAMPI down to Adam would restrict her independence and thus put our heroine in a rut. I disagree. Back in earlier issues, she was very involved with Adam, and a few of the dangers they faced together were among the best: Pope Verdou, W.W. Wade, Father Jonas.

2) An emotional bond with Adam would reduce her effectiveness as the focal point for a story. I doubt this. If anything, a relationship with Adam, either as a lover or friend, would add to the impact of each story. Not only could an author develop the plot, but the VAMPI/Adam relationship as well.

3) Adam's father would oppose such a relationship. I don't know about this one. Certainly, in the earlier stories he would have. However, the situation has since changed. I think he accepts VAMPI for what she is... although I don't know if he'd want her for a daughter-in-law!

Now on to issue #30. All I can say is **terrific!** In addition to some great stories and artwork (Rich Corben's art on "As Though They Were Living" was exceptionally good), Mr. Flaxman Loew once again gave us a superior story in "The God of Blood." I'll be chewing my fingernails down to the knuckles waiting for the second half of the story!

**NORMAN E. DAVISON**  
Union, N.J.

I just wanted to let you know that VAMPIRELLA #30 was really great! Keep running the color sections by Rich Corben. I have followed Corben from the underground to the overground and he is getting better all the time. I think your magazines are maturing into something really special. Way to go, VAMPI!

**MIKE PHILLIPS**  
Tornado, W. Va.

I've been reading your magazines now for about six years on an irregular basis. When I cruise on down to the magazine store in our town, the first thing I do is check to see if they've gotten the new VAMPIRELLA. Of course, if I find myself face-to-face with UNCLE CREEPY or COUSIN EERIE, you can bet your eyeteeth I wouldn't pass 'em up!

Some of my friends think I'm stupid and immature for buying such 'trash,' as they call it. Well, I don't think I'm 'stupid' for wanting to read some of the finest and most enjoyable horror fiction around. And I'm certainly no more immature than they. All they seem to be interested in are car books and motorcycle magazines. So, big deal! I'd rather look at VAMPIRELLA than a hunk of metal.

I really dig settling down with a new issue and letting my mind run wild. Sometimes I read a particular tale two or three times if it's well-executed. I think Jose Gonzalez is the most excellent artist in the great lineup of Warren artists. He makes VAMPI literally jump off the page with realism. She almost strikes me as being a real person instead of just a cartoon character. Once in a while the stories themselves need work, but all in all, I find myself most absorbed in what I'm reading. Which brings me to the point of this letter.

I had just come home from a date with a new girl I'd met, and asked her if she'd come in for some coffee and cake. It was rather late, but she agreed. I never mentioned to her that I read your magazine because of some foolish notion that girls just weren't into that sort of thing. Was I ever wrong! While I got the goodies ready, she found a pile of VAMPI'S on my desk. I was shocked to find that she not only approved of your mags, but was an avid fan herself! We then started what must have been one of the longest discussions in history on the Warren magazines.

So all I can say is, thanks for the perfect finale to a great evening!

**CHRISTOPHER STEPHAN**  
Maywood, N.J.

It's our pleasure, Chris! Only next time, why not invite us all for coffee and cake?

Your latest magazine, VAMPIRELLA #30, was tops! And I'm already waiting for the next issue, just as I do every month. VAMPI, you're great! But why aren't you weekly?

**JOHN W. ALLEN**  
Alamagordo, N.M.



Our heroine in the arms of the Sun-God HUITZILOPOCHTLI. The JOSE GONZALEZ illustration is from the very well-received FLAXMAN LOEW tale "God of Blood" in VAMPI #30.

I have just purchased VAMPIRELLA #30 and have but one comment to make. Get rid of 'Luana' before she even takes shape! Squash her in some less worthy rag, but keep her away from VAMPIRELLA! Judging by the back cover illo, she looks to be a bore! She looks ugly. And even if she's not, we don't need a tiger-chick competing for space with VAMPIRELLA! If I wanted that type of story I'd buy a book with any number of inferior jungle guys and gals in it. Save your magazine for the same sort of excellent stories you've been running thus far!

**RICK NIEBER**  
Maynard, Mass.

You've obviously been with us long enough to know that we wouldn't run anything in VAMPIRELLA (or any of our other magazines) that didn't meet with our high standards of excellence. So give our jungle ms. a chance, okay?

Normally, my literary preference is toward those works by authors of high caliber such as Edgar Rice Burroughs, H.G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, and so on. In a nutshell, I like a good science fiction story. But now that I'm in the service, I find myself cut off from most of the science fiction I like. So I've looked toward new horizons, and find your VAMPIRELLA magazine a rather enjoyable substitute. As of now I have only three of your magazines, but through back-issues and a subscription I'm hoping to increase that quantity.

About the only thing wrong with VAMPIRELLA #30 was the story "Memoirs of a Killer." If you recall the killings in and around Ann Arbor, Mich. (I live not far from there), you may understand my feelings. Other than that, the issue was well-done and thought-provoking.

**MARC B. PELTON**  
Ft. Jackson, S.C.

## IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG WINTER! ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T WRITE!

Seems not enough of you are writing and VAMPI's been in the dumps all week. Help an ailing vampiress today—WRITE!

The address is:  
**SCARLET LETTERS**  
c/o Warren Publishing Co.,  
145 East 32nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016



# VAMPIRE'S VYRT

THE DEMONIC STORY OF DEVILISH DELINEATOR

## RAMON TORRENTS

WILDLY IMAGINATIVE FANTASY ARTICLE



Readers of CREEPY, EERIE, and VAMPIRELLA first became aware of Ramon Torrents with the 51st issue of CREEPY. Ramon went on to win the 1973 Warren Award as Best All Around Artist and has been featured regularly in all Warren titles since.

Ramon was born in Barcelona 35 years ago, and admits that very early in life he became familiar with what have long been his favorite subjects: science fiction and fantasy. So it was, at the age of ten, that when most boys dream of one day becoming an astro-

naut or a fireman, Ramon was busy writing and drawing his own comic stories. These, he notes with some sarcasm, were sent to publishers who encouraged him to practice.

"My stories were filed away, forever," Ramon commented.

But the young Ramon was not discouraged. He pursued his chosen career with a feverish determination to master all forms of artistic rendering. And a decade later, at the ripe old age of twenty, he began freelancing in a professional capacity for magazines the world over.

Despite being in great demand, Ramon found time to sate the stirrings of his imagination by bringing the fantastic "Five For Infinity" to pictorial life. This was a series later carried on by fellow Spaniard, the very talented Esteban Maroto (profiled in EERIE #38).

An intense, dedicated artist, we predict Ramon Torrents a strong contender for future plaudits from fantasy fans and fellow professionals alike.



Ramon Torrents' on Satan's power over earth. From "Demon Child," in VAMPIRELLA #26.

## YOU'RE PAYING MORE FOR WARREN MAGAZINES THIS MONTH. WE THINK YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHY.

As with almost everything these days, the price of our magazines has just risen. Unfortunately the price rise was inevitable and unavoidable. During the past year the price of printing and paper has gone up phenomenally. And in 1974 these prices will continue to rise as newsprint paper remains in short supply.

The cost of living is also rising. And with it we must raise the rates we currently pay our contributors, our artists and writers.

To offset these additional costs we have had to add to the cover price of this magazine.

But we are not asking our readers to pay extra for the same WARREN Magazine. We've added eight additional pages to our books. Eight more pages of the very best stories and art published in comics today.

Instead of the usual 64 pages in each issue of CREEPY and VAMPIRELLA you'll now receive 72 inside pages. Our EERIE magazine remains 72 pages—but with an added 8 pages of color comics each issue.

Our subscription prices remain the same, and we hope we'll not be forced to change these rates.

So, while you may be paying a little more for your WARREN Magazines, we can promise you two things each time you purchase an issue: first, you'll be getting the absolute best in comics; the very finest stories and art being published today. Second, we guarantee that the magazine you buy will substantially increase in value—as have all the WARREN Magazines since the first issue of our first magazine, over 15 years ago.

One final word about our competition. Their magazines cost less. We read them, and we think they're worth less. One competitor continually shouts about their so-called 'brand name.' They've been publishing 20¢ comics for a long time and they would have you believe that their black and white comics are good because their 'brand name' has been around for quite a while.

Don't be fooled.

Don't take brand names for what they aren't. Particularly in comics. Compare us with our competitors. Judge for yourself the level of quality and style. Yes, they cost less—but a publisher cannot cut costs without cutting value to the reader.

We think our readers prefer the extra value and the extra quality. And that's exactly the kind of magazine we're going to publish.

## FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the past, to discussions of current comics and news of comics yet to come! Fanzines are available only by MAIL, direct from their publishers! We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market!

### DARK FANTASY

Box 1185

Genoanoe, Ontario.

\$1.25

Obviously a labor of love, Dark Fantasy is a 66-page publication that features striking artwork and sports, interesting short stories and poetry by primarily Canadian authors. Dark Fantasy declares itself, "The Magazine of Amateur Creators," and while this label is not wholly accurate, the book does indeed suffer from a lack of firm editorial control. The stories are allowed to run on interminably, and their hodge-podge organization leaves something to be desired. But there is food for thought.

### QUINTESSENCE

1723 West Spofford

Spokane, Wash. 99205

\$1.00

Quintessence is a well-researched, intelligent magazine of comics and fantasy. John Achziger has assembled a magnificent collection of articles on Perry Rhodan, Conan, Zorro, and Star Trek, a striking and beautifully tongue-in-cheek Dennis Fujitake portfolio of super heroines, and an interesting barbarian strip called The Mighty Ronthur. The quality of the printing leaves much to be desired, but the book is well-worth the one dollar investment. Yours to digest for \$1.

CPL

4010 Mallway Dr. Apt. A

Indianapolis, Ind. 46236

35¢

CPL is a magazine devoted entirely to comic book literature. The quality of the artwork is good, and the list of professional contributors is impressive. There's a fine review of the new Star Trek cartoon series, and there are some interesting notes on the effect of the paper shortage on the comics industry. But only the "Revival-Survival" column is of a professional caliber. CPL features illustrations enough of comic characters to satisfy even the most rabid connoisseur of Pictorial Literature.

# VAMPIRELLA

TWO MEN SPIN THE WHEEL OF **CHANCE**!  
BOTH, GAMBLING FOR THE MIGHTIEST  
OF ALL STAKES... THEIR **LIVES**!

ONLY ONE MAN CAN **WIN**...  
WHILE THE OTHER PLUMETS  
HEADLONG TOWARDS HIS **DEATH**...

...TOWARDS THE SHARP DEADLY  
SPIKES THAT NOW PROTRUDE  
FROM HIS LIFELESS BODY!

CAUGHT IN THE **VORTEX OF PASSION, DESIRE AND HATE**, THE DELICIOUS CREATURE  
FROM THE VAMPIRE PLANET OF **DRAKULON** WITNESSES THE GHASTLY AFTERMATH OF  
THE GAME THAT MUST END IN TRAGEDY WHEN THE LAWS OF **CHANCE AND PROBABILITY**  
ARE FUSED IN THE PHENOMENON OF...

## THE RUNNING RED



IT WAS A NIGHT OF  
**HORROR** IN THE  
GLITTERING DIAMOND-  
STARRED **RIVIERA**!

IT BEGAN AT THE  
GAMBLING TABLES OF  
THE **GREAT CASINO**...

THE TENSION IN THE SALON PRIVÉ OF THE GREAT CASINO IS OF THE KIND YOU COULD CUT WITH A KNIFE.

THERE'S BIG MONEY ON THE TABLE. A YOUNG MAN IS SWEATING. HIS GUTS ARE TURNING OVER WITH THE TERROR OF PROBABLE RUINATION.

A CROAKING, MOCKING VOICE FROM THE MAN IN THE WHEELCHAIR STEELS HIS NERVE TO MAKE ANOTHER PLAY.

HE SWEEPS ANOTHER PILE OF PLAQUES ON... BLACK...

MAKE YOUR PLAY, BOY! WHY DO YOU HESITATE? YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE!

WHO IS THAT CRAZY YOUNG MAN?

RUPERT VANDYCK... OF THE PHILADELPHIA VANDYCKS. HIS OLD MAN'S BAILED HIM OUT OF THREE MARRIAGES AND TWO BANKRUPTCIES. BUT I RECKON TONIGHT'S THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR LITTLE RUPIE-BOY...

A FINAL CLICK-CLICK-CLICK... AND THE BALL ROLLS TO A RED NUMBER!

AND THAT EVIL-LOOKING CREATURE WHO'S LEADING HIM ON?

JABEZ KRUGER THE ARMS MAGNATE! QUIET NOW, THE WHEEL'S SLOWING DOWN!

AAAAAAAHH! I'VE LOST THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS IN FOUR SPINS OF THE WHEEL!

NO! NO-O-O-O!  
EEEEEEEEEHH!



THE GREAT PENDRAGON, ILLUSIONIST EXTRAORDINARY, AND HIS RAVISHING ASSISTANT **VAMPIRELLA** ARE APPEARING IN CABARET AT THE CASINO RESTAURANT!

THAT KRUGER...THAT SADISTIC MONSTER! HE TAUNTED AND LURED THAT POOR BOY TO HIS DEATH! AND NOW YOU TELL ME WE'RE BOOKED TO DO A SHOW AT HIS PRIVATE VILLA!

IT'S A DATE WE CAN'T AVOID, VAMPI DEAR. SURE, COULD SNUB KRUGER, BUT THE DOORS OF EVERY THEATRE AND CABARET IN EUROPE WOULD SLAM IN OUR FACES WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

WHEN I THINK OF THAT BOY'S DYING MOANS...

DON'T, VAMPI DEAR! I FEEL THE SPIRIT EBBLING OUT OF ME!

HIGH IN HIS LUXURY VILLA ABOVE THE GLITTERING TOWN, KRUGER IS AT BUSINESS.

I HAVE THE GREATEST ADMIRATION FOR A GAMBLER, SENOR. BY ALL MEANS START A REVOLUTION IN YOUR COUNTRY, AND I WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH ARMS...AT EIGHT PERCENT DISCOUNT.

A MILLION THANKS, SENOR. WHEN MY UNHAPPY COUNTRY IS LIBERATED FROM THE HEEL OF THE TYRANT, YOUR STATUE SHALL STAND IN THE PLAZA.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!

WHEN HIS VISITOR HAS GONE...

WIRE THE MINISTER OF WAR IN GUARDIA.

GIVE HIM A PRECIS OF MY CONVERSATION WITH THAT MINDLESS MORON. TELL HIM THE REVOLUTIONARIES WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH SUB-STANDARD ARMS...AND THAT I SHALL EXPECT A GOVERNMENT ORDER FOR FIFTY OF MY FIGHTER PLANES WITH THE VERTICAL TAKE-OFF CAPABILITY...

...THERE WILL BE THE USUAL RAKE-OFF FOR HIS EXCELLENCY!

AND NOW, MY DEAR DROGA... TIME FOR RELAXATION. CUT THE CARDS! ACES HIGH! IF YOU WIN, I WILL GIVE YOU AN EMERALD NECKLACE THAT ONCE GRACED THE THROAT OF THE TSARINA CATHERINE THE GREAT, WHOM YOU RESEMBLE IN MANY PARTICULARS...

AND IF I LOSE, JABEZ?



NEXT DAY, AT COCKTAIL HOUR, EVERY EYE IN THE HARBOR IS DIRECTED TOWARDS A SUPER-YACHT THAT GLIDES SILENTLY TO ITS MOORING. BORED AND PAMPERED VOICES RISE IN A SHRILL CLAMOR OF EXCITEMENT.



ONE FIGURE... AND ONE FIGURE ALONE, APPEARS ON THE DECK OF THE SPLENDID VESSEL. A MAN WITHOUT A NAME! HE IS KNOWN IN THE HIGHFLOWN, DIZZY WORLD OF THE *INTERNATIONAL LOTUS-EATERS* AS, SIMPLY, "THE TRAVELLER."



VAMPIRELLA SEES HIM ACROSS A CROWDED ROOM...



THAT NIGHT, VAMPI AND PENDRAGON ARRIVE AT THE *VILLA ROUGE ET NOIR*, JABEZ KRUGER'S SENSATIONAL PAD ABOVE TOWN.



THEIR EYES MEET. A COSMIC FORCE PASSES BETWEEN THEM. WORLDS COLLIDE IN THE HEART OF THE LONGLY, LOVELY GIRL FROM DRAKULON. A SMALL BIRD SINGS A PURE, HIGH NOTE OF JOY.



THEY ENTERTAIN THE ARMS MAGNATE AND HIS GUESTS. BUT VAMPIRELLA ONLY HAS EYES FOR... HIM...

MY BEAUTIFUL ASSISTANT WILL NOW VANISH... SO!

SO!

SO!!... FOR THE LOVE O' MIKE, VAMPI, ARE YOU TRYING TO DRIVE ME TO DRINK?

AFTERWARDS...

THEY TELL ME THAT YOU, ALSO, ARE A GAMBLING MAN.

GAMBLING HAS BEEN A RULING PASSION FOR... ALL OF MY LIFETIME.

AND MINE! I HAVE DEVISED A GAME THAT MIGHT AMUSE YOU. TO PLAY, YOU SIMPLY NEED A POTENTIAL CAPITAL OF FIFTY MILLION FRANCS... PLUS A STEADY NERVE! DOES THE PROPOSITION PLEASE YOU?

WHEN DO WE PLAY?

THE SALON PRIVÉ OF THE CASINO... TOMORROW NIGHT... SHALL WE SAY, AFTER DINNER?

THE LOOK IS FOR KRUGER, BUT VAMPIRELLA KNOWS THAT THE WORDS ARE FOR... HER!

TOMORROW NIGHT... WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS CRAWL PAST ON LEADENED FEET. THEN, ALL AT ONCE, HER HEART IS BEATING LIKE THAT OF A HUNTED FAUN. THE CHIMES OF THE HOTEL DE VILLE RING OUT THE HOUR OF EIGHT. THERE IS A TAP ON HER DOOR...

CAR WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE, MA'AM.

OH... THANK YOU.



THERE IS SIMPLY THE WHISPER OF THE WAVES AND THE LILTING NOTES OF AN ORCHESTRA IN A FAR-OFF BALLROOM, AS SHE ALIGHTS BY THE YACHT OF "THE TRAVELLER."

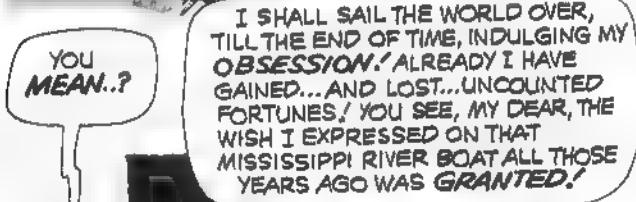


THERE IS HORROR IN THE HEART OF THE LUSCIOUS DRAKULONNE! NOT EVEN WHEN A HAND MATERIALIZES AND GIVES HER A DRINK!



IN THE VAST SALOON, SHE FINDS... HIM!





THEY ARRIVE TOGETHER  
AT THE CASINO.

BY COURTESY OF THE  
CASINO DIRECTORS, WE HAVE  
THE LOAN OF THIS TABLE AND ITS  
CROUPIER, FOR OUR PERSONAL  
USE. TONIGHT WE ARE  
NOT PLAYING AGAINST  
THE BANK, BUT  
AGAINST EACH  
OTHER!

EXPLAIN YOUR  
GAME.

WE PLAY RED AGAINST  
BLACK, AT EVEN ODDS, A  
HUNDRED THOUSAND  
FRANCS A SPIN. THE LOSER  
HAS TO DOUBLE HIS FOLLOW-  
ING STAKE. THE FIRST TO  
LOSE HIS FORTUNE...OR HIS  
NERVE...IS THE LOSER  
OF THE GAME!

I WILL  
PLAY ON  
RED!

AND I ON  
BLACK!

THE WHEEL SPINS. THE BALL  
COMES DOWN ON RED  
NUMBER...

PITY! NOW  
I DOUBLE MY  
STAKE...TWO  
HUNDRED THOUSAND  
FRANCS!



RED COMES UP AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN! KRUGER'S  
STAKE ROCKETS UP IN MATHEMATICAL PROPORTION...400,000  
FRANCS...800,000 FRANCS...1,600,000 FRANCS! ...



THE NEWS SPREADS LIKE A FOREST FIRE THROUGHOUT THE CASINO,  
OUT INTO THE NIGHT STREETS AND THROUGH THE THROBBING TOWN!  
THE LAWS OF CHANCE AND PROBABILITY HAVE, FOR AN INCALCULABLE  
TIME, BEEN SUSPENDED! THERE'S A RUN OF RED!

NEVER, IN THE LONG AND BIZARRE HISTORY  
OF THE CASINO, HAVE SUCH STAKES BEEN  
ON THE GREEN BAIZE.

JABEL, YOU  
CAN'T BORROW  
LIKE THIS! YOU'VE SUNG  
OVER SIX MILLION  
FRANCS!

RED HAS NOW COME UP **SEVEN** TIMES IN  
SUCCESSION... **EIGHT**... **NINE**...

SHUT  
YOUR MOUTH,  
WOMAN!

PLAYING  
AGAIN, KRUGER?

THE TENTH TIME THAT RED COMES UP, THE  
ARMS MAGNATE HAS LOST 51,200,000  
FRANCS!!

YOU HAVE  
BEATEN ME,  
TRAVELLER...  
I... I'M  
RUINED!

DO YOU HAVE **ANYTHING**  
LEFT TO STAKE, IN **ONE**  
**MORE SPIN** OF THE WHEEL,  
AGAINST YOUR LOSSES?

YES! YES,  
BY ALL THE  
DEVILS IN HELL,  
I HAVE!

I STAKE  
HER!

AAAAAAH!  
NO! NO... YOU  
CAN'T MEAN  
IT!

I ACCEPT  
THE STAKE!  
SPIN THE WHEEL,  
CROUPIER!

THE RUNNING RED CONTINUES... FOR  
THE ELEVENTH TIME!

COME, MY DEAR.  
TIME FOR US TO  
LEAVE HERE.

WHAT...  
WHAT ABOUT  
HER?

KEEP HER, KRUGER,  
WITH MY COMPLIMENTS! SHE  
WILL MAKE AN ADMIRABLE  
COMPANION IN YOUR NEW-  
FOUND POVERTY!

DROGA...

GOOD BYE,  
KRUGER... SAVE  
A PLACE FOR ME  
IN HELL!

GO AFTER HIM!  
GET HIM... CUT  
HIM... DESTROY  
HIM!



E-E-E-E-AAAAAH



WALKING BACK TO THE TRAVELLER'S YACHT, THROUGH THE MIMOSA-SCENTED NIGHT...

KRUGER'S FINISHED FOR-EVER NOW, AND THE WORLD'S A CLEANER PLACE.

I ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE. I ENJOYED PLEASING YOU AND DOING THE WORLD A GOOD TURN. HEDONISM ISN'T ENOUGH...

NEVER MIND THE DAME! GET HIM!



THE BEAUTIFUL DRAKULONNE, WHO CAN ONLY LIVE AS A NORMAL WOMAN BY DRINKING BLOOD-SUBSTITUTE SERUM EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, IS IN REALITY A SHE-VAMPIRE! NORMALLY SATIATED BY THE SERUM, HER BLOOD-LUST BREAKS THROUGH IN TIMES OF EXTREME STRESS!



THOSE CARRION ARE ACTING ON KRUGER'S ORDERS!  
...I WILL DRAIN THEM DRY!

THE FANGS OF THE VAMPIRESS REND THROUGH PULSATING JUGULARS! THE RICH, RED BLOOD FLOWS STRONGLY!

EEEEEEHHH...



THE TRAVELLER'S WOUNDS ARE DEEP-AND FATAL!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TRAVELLER?  
ANSWER ME, MY LOVE...  
OOOOOOH!

NO ETERNITY OF SELF-INDULGENCE FOR ME NOW, MY VAMPIRELLA!

IT... IT CAN'T BE!





SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

# VAMPIRELLA

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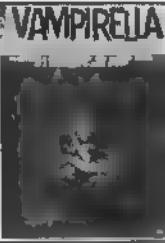
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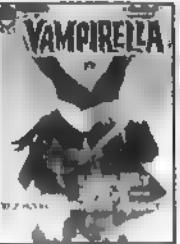
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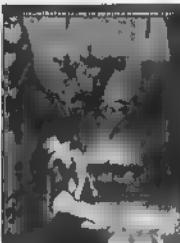
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VIEST COMICS MAGAZINE INCOMPLETE? STOP  
GNASHING YOUR FANGS OUT AND ORDER  
THOSE MISSING ISSUES NOW!

When ordering items, please use Order Form, last page of this magazine.

# PANTHER



A PANTHER...FREE, BLACK  
AND DEADLY, RACES THROUGH  
THE VICIOUS JUNGLE KNOWN  
AS NEW YORK CITY!

IT LEAPS FROM THE ROTTING,  
CROOKED STEPS OF A SLUM  
TENEMENT!... THE TENEMENT  
WHERE IT JUST MURDERED  
TWO AGED AND SLOVENLY  
PEOPLE.

# BLACK ON WHITE



SOME MAY HAVE  
SEEN THE PANTHER...  
INCONGRUOUS WITH  
IT'S SETTING, RACING  
THROUGH TWISTED  
STREETS AND ALLEYS!

BUT NONE OBSERVE NOW...  
NOW AS THE GLISTENING BLACK  
ANIMAL TRANSFORMS INTO  
AN EVEN DEADLIER AND MORE  
DANGEROUS BEAST...

ONE WHO SAW THE PANTHER PURSUED... UNTIL HE COULD KEEP UP NO LONGER...



THE BEGINNING: AT FIRST, HE HAD BEEN **TRANSFIGURED**... HIS ATTENTION COMPLETELY CAPTURED BY HER HARD AND UNCOMPROMISING SENSUAL BEAUTY...



...HE FELT AS THOUGH HE WERE BEING PULLED TOWARD HER... AN IMAGINED UNION FOLLOWED...



...A UNION WHICH WAS SUDDENLY SHATTERED BY AN OLD MAN AND A STORY THAT SEEMED BUT AN ELABORATE LIE...

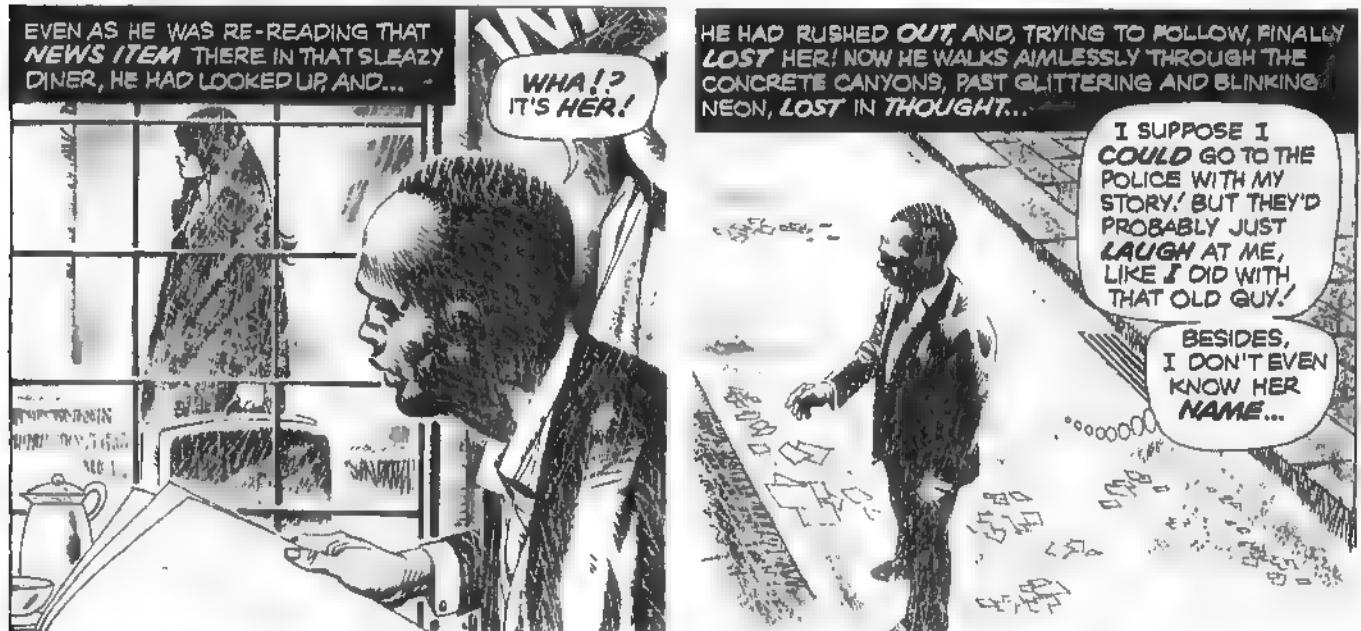
I'M TELLING YOU! SHE'S MORE THAN JUST A WOMAN! YEARS AGO, SHE LEFT A BAR WITH A MAN I KNEW! AND WHEN THAT MAN'S BODY WAS FOUND...

A RATHER MEANINGLESS EVENING OF AIMLESS FRIVOLITY... OR SO IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE NEWS ITEM HE READ THAT...

...SOD... IT'S THE SAME OLD GUY...

...FOUND TORN TO SHREDS... AS THOUGH BY SOME SORT OF HUGE CAT!





...AN ELDERLY, SLOVENLY COUPLE,  
TORN APART LYING IN POOLS OF  
THEIR OWN BLOOD... AND THE SHADOW  
OF A LITHE AND WELL-ROUNDED  
FEMALE FORM  
FALLING OVER  
THIS SCENE OF  
WELL-DESERVED  
DEATH...

EVERYTHING  
GOT SHOVED  
AROUND DURING  
THE STRUGGLE!  
NEED MY CLOTHES  
... MY PURSE...

THERE!  
GOT 'EM!  
NOW I'D BETTER  
GET OUT OF HERE!  
THERE WAS A DRUNK  
IN THE HALLWAY WHEN  
I KILLED THE OLD  
LADY! AND HE  
SAW ME DO IT!

I DOUBT  
IT, BUT HE MAY  
HAVE GONE TO  
THE POLICE!

STRANGE HOW  
MUCH MY LIFE HAS  
CHANGED THESE  
PAST FEW DAYS!

I'VE FINALLY  
STARTED TO  
FIGHT BACK...



TO LEARN THE **WHOLE** STORY... A STORY THAT RESIDES IN A SUBURBAN **FOUNDLING HOME**... THIS IS YOUR **GOAL**! SO WHY THEN, **PANTHA**, DO YOU NOW SUDDENLY FEEL COMPELLED TO **LEAVE** THE TICKET LINE?



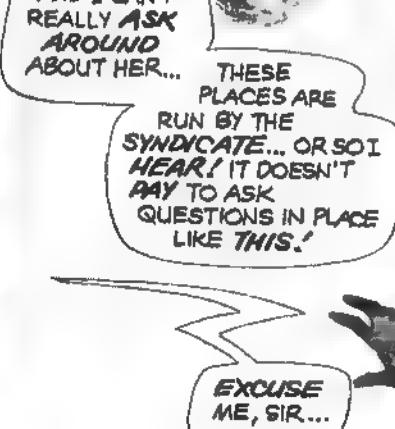
WHY DO YOU FEEL **DRAWN** INTO MOMENTARILY PLACING YOUR BELONGINGS IN A LOCKER?



WHY IS A CERTAIN SUBCONSCIOUS PART OF YOU DIRECTING YOU TO WALK OUT OF THE BUS STATION... TO STEAL OFF INTO THE NEON-SPLASHED NIGHT? WHY **PANTHA**? WHY? THERE ARE NO ANSWERS HERE... NO ANSWERS ON THIS CHILLY CITY NIGHT!



...BUT NOT TOO FAR AWAY, WE FIND **ANOTHER** WHO IS SEARCHING...



A **WOMAN**... NO, MORE A **girl**... EIGHTEEN OR NINETEEN... A PIECE OF OVER-OBVIOUS **BEAUTY** WHO HAD HAD JUST ENOUGH TO **DRINK** SO THAT HER **TOP-HEAVINESS** WAS GETTING THE **BEST** OF HER... SPEAKING IN A LOW, NOT SOULTRY BUT WHISPERY, VOICE:

PARDON?  
I HATE TO BOTHER YOU, SIR! BUT THIS IS PART OF MY JOB! I'M SUPPOSED TO COME OVER AND GET YOU TO BUY ME A DRINK!



EACH OF US  
GIRLS HAVE TO GO  
AROUND LIKE THIS  
AT LEAST ONCE A  
WEEK AND GET  
THE MEN TO BUY  
US DRINKS! I  
KNOW I'M  
RIPPING YOU  
OFF, BUT...

YOU MEAN YOU  
WORK HERE? AS  
A DANCER?

LISTEN... I COULD JUST SAY THAT YOU  
REFUSED TO BUY ME A DRINK, AND  
THAT'LL BE THAT! AFTER ALL THIS IS  
A FANTASTIC  
RIP-OFF AND...

YES!  
BUT...

NO! NO!  
SIT DOWN.  
I'LL BUY YOU  
THAT DRINK... IF  
I CAN TALK TO  
YOU FOR A  
WHILE!

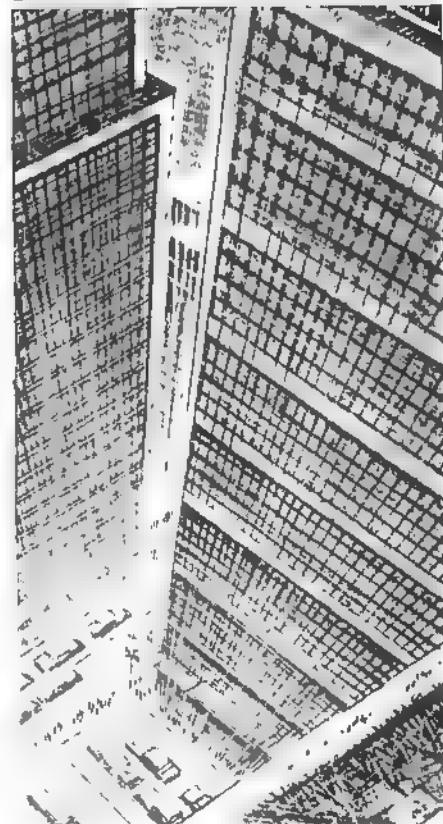
THERE'S THIS  
GIRL I'M INTERESTED  
IN FINDING OUT A FEW  
THINGS ABOUT! SHE  
WORKS HERE!

OR, AT  
LEAST, SHE WAS  
HERE LAST  
NIGHT!

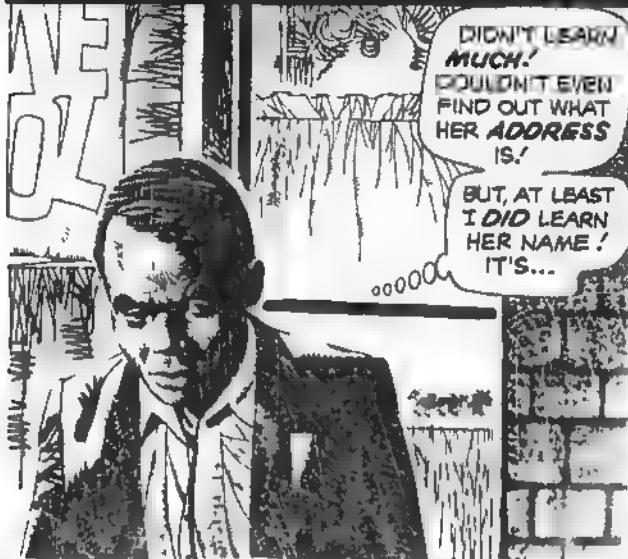
LISTEN, PEOPLE OF THE NIGHT... CAN  
YOU HEAR IT?... HEAR IT IN YOUR  
MIND? THE VIBRATIONS! THE  
DISTANT BEAT OF JUNGLE DRUMS!

DO YOU HEAR THE RUSTLE OF  
FOLIAGE... THAT RUMBLING  
GROWL? CAN YOU HEAR THE PAD  
OF THE PAWS OF A HUGE CAT?

THIS IS A JUNGLE OF CONCRETE!  
YET IT IS AS THOUGH THE OIL AND  
THE SLUDGE ON THE STREETS WERE  
NOW REFLECTING THE DENSE  
GROWTH OF AN AFRICAN RAIN  
FOREST, INSTEAD OF ASPHALT  
EDIFICE UPON EDIFICE.



WHAT DO THESE VIBRATIONS MEAN? IS THIS TO  
BECOME A NIGHT OF JUNGLE MADNESS?



BUT, AT LEAST  
I DID LEARN  
HER NAME!  
IT'S...

BUT, WHAT NEED DO WE  
HAVE TO KNOW THE NAME  
SHE GOES BY IN THIS  
PARTICULAR INCIDENT?  
WE ALREADY KNOW HER  
FEEL WHO SHE TRULY IS.



HE SENSES IMPENDING DOOM!  
HE CANNOT SHAKE THE FEELING...

...NOT EVEN WHEN THERE ARE  
OTHERS... MANY OTHERS  
AROUND HIM...



...FOR EVEN IN A CROWD, HE IS  
ALONE... FEELING SOMETHING  
STALKING HIM...



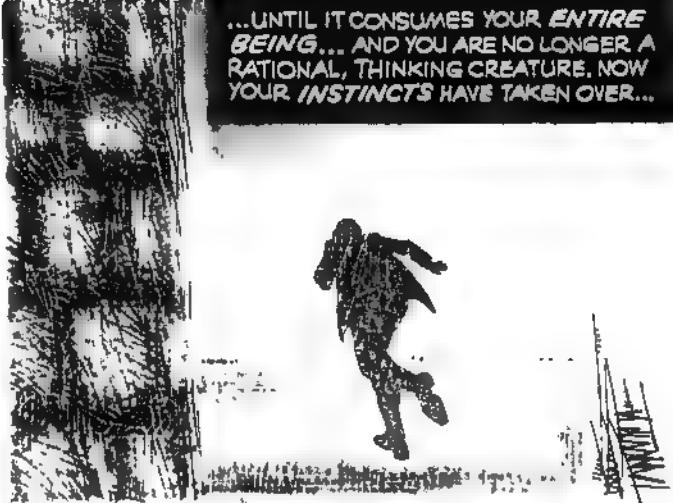
UNTIL, FINALLY, IT  
IS MORE THAN JUST A  
FEELING... NOW  
THERE ARE SOUNDS  
AS WELL. WHAT WAS  
ONCE JUST A HAZY  
IMPRESSION HAS  
BECOME SHOCKING  
REALITY.



THE **FEAR**... IT BEGINS DEEP **WITHIN** YOU. DOESN'T IT? **FEAR**... **GROWING**, SPREADING FURTHER AND FURTHER OUT...



...UNTIL IT CONSUMES YOUR **ENTIRE BEING**... AND YOU ARE NO LONGER A RATIONAL, THINKING CREATURE. NOW YOUR **INSTINCTS** HAVE TAKEN OVER...



...TELLING YOU TO RUN **FASTER**, FASTER... AS STRANGE **IMAGES** FLASH THROUGH YOUR MIND...

**BOOMLAV**



**BOOMLAV**



**BOOMLAV**



...AND WHEN **RUNNING** PROVES USELESS... WHEN YOU INSTINCTIVELY REALIZE THAT THERE SHALL BE **NO ESCAPE**... THEN YOU PREPARE FOR THE **FIGHT**, JUST AS YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR SIMILAR FIGHTS FOR CENTURY UPON CENTURY...

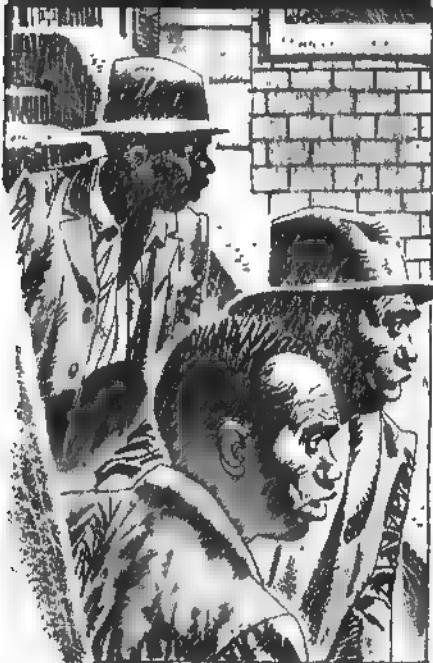


...POSITIONING YOURSELF... WAITING... **WAITING...**

...AND FINALLY STRIKING!



LISTEN, PEOPLE OF THE NIGHT...CAN YOU HEAR IT? THE GROWLS! THE SHRIEKS!



THE SOUND OF CLAWS TEARING INTO FLESH, THE SKUFFLE, THE SCREAMS!



AND FINALLY, THE DEAFENING SILENCE!



IT IS OVER NOW! THE BATTLE HAS ENDED, AND YOU, MAN... YOU ARE THE LOSER!



AND THE VICTOR IS NOW FAR AWAY... WEARY, BUT IF WOUNDED, THEN ONLY SLIGHTLY.



BEFORE LONG, A PANTHER NUZZLES WHAT APPEARS TO BE A DISCARDED DRESS...

AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THE CAT IS GONE, AND A YOUNG WOMAN HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE...



...IN CONTROL ENOUGH TO LEAVE MY BELONGINGS IN A BUS STATION LOCKER... SO THAT THEY TOO ARE SAFE!

NOW, I CAN RETURN TO THE BUS STATION... AND GET ON WITH PAYING A VISIT TO THAT FOUNDLING HOME!



IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY! I COULD CERTAINLY USE A MANICURE! MY NAILS ARE A MESS!

AND SOME REST! I COULD SURE USE... SOME SLEEP!



# PRESENTING The 1973 WARREN AWARDS

## BEST COVER OF THE YEAR 1973

### SANJULIAN

Sanjulian was the best horror cover artist in the business when he came to Warren three years ago. But he's improved tremendously since then. When the Warren staff voted for Best Cover of 1973, the top three choices went to Sanjulian's excellent works.



Best covers of 1973: EERIE #48, CREEPY #51, EERIE #46.

## BEST ART OF THE YEAR 1973

### ESTEBAN MAROTO

Esteban Maroto is one of the fastest, most reliable, and most talented artists illustrating comics today. Almost everything he draws is excellent. But Esteban's contemporaries felt he surpassed himself with his beautiful "Scream in the Forest" from CREEPY #53.



Best Art In Story: "A Scream In The Forest" — CREEPY #53.

## BEST ARTIST/WRITER OF THE YEAR 1973

### RICHARD CORBEN

Rich Corben returned to the Warren magazines this year, after an all too long absence. He started off by thrilling us with "Mickey Click Flip." And from there jumped to writing, drawing and coloring "Lycanklutz" . . . unanimously chosen best story written by an artist.



"Lycanklutz": Reason why Rich Corben is Best Writer/Artist.

## BEST STORY OF THE YEAR 1973

### BILL DUBAY

This may have been the year of the Warren magazines. But it was Bill DuBay's year as well. Besides copping honors for scripting the best story to appear in a Warren magazine this year, Dube became both Editor and Vice President of Warren Pub. Company.



Best Story: "Freedom's Just Another Word" — CREEPY #53.

**T**raditionally, the end of any year is a time to look back. To reflect upon where we've been and what we've accomplished, before striving ahead to the advancing new year.

Looking back on 1973, the writers, artists and editorial staff of the Warren magazines can well feel a sense of proud accomplishment. No one in the comics industry can deny, that 1973 has been the year of the Warren magazines.

First we gave you covers from the two

all-time greatest horror cover artists, Enrich and Sanjulian. We followed up with bizarre stories from the eloquently warped minds of writers John Jacobson, Jack Butterworth and Doug Moench. We bombarded you with the illustrious illustrative works of Jose Gonzalez, Ramon Torrents, Esteban Maroto and Felix Mas. We sent you into freaky acidian worlds of color with Richard Corben. And we gave you posters, games, more stories and more pages of horror than ever be-

fore.

The year 1973 saw the introduction of new Warren stars. The Mummy debuted with oldtimers Jaime Brocal and Steve Skeates. Martin Salvador cavorted about with our new Werewolf. Paul Neary made his and Hunter's bow in EERIE. Vincente Alcazar splashed into the Warren magazines with Schreck. And a kid from Spain named Isidro Munes kept popping up in a lot of magazines with his name misspelled, Munes!

**T**he Warren Awards are an annual presentation, honoring the writers and artists who have consistently produced the absolute best stories and art during the past year. Traditionally, the Warren Award winners have been chosen by the editors and publisher of the three Warren magazines, CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA. This year, however, both the writing and artistic staff were asked to participate in the selections. These then, the winners of the fourth annual Warren Awards, were selected by their fellow artists and writers as the most outstanding talent to appear in the Warren magazines during the year 1973.

## BEST ALL AROUND ARTIST RAMON TORRENTS

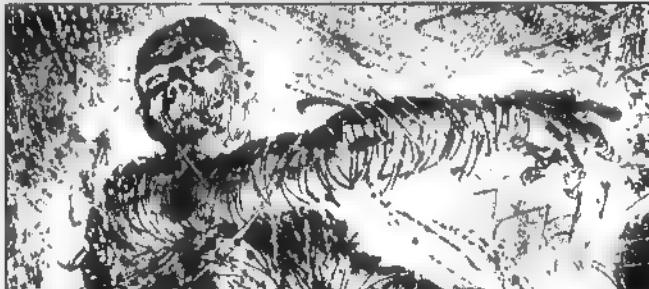
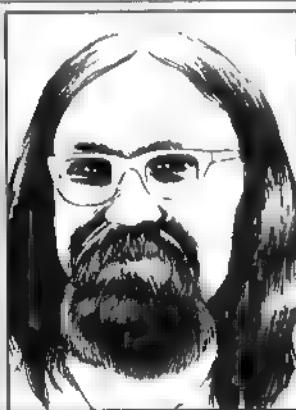
Ramon Torrents is a new Warren artist. His first work appeared in the early part of 1973. He hit us first with "Star Slaughter," "The Last Hero" and "Call It Companionship." All brought instant raves. And the Warren staff elected Ramon as most versatile artist.



"Star Slaughter" was Ramon Torrents' first for CREEPY.

## BEST ALL AROUND WRITER STEVE SKEATES

Earlier this year, Steve Skeates received an award from the Academy of Comic Book Arts for a story Warren had turned down, "Poster Plague." Now, his peers have chosen Steve as the Best All-Around Writer. It's been a good year for Steve with "Changes," "Middle-Am" and The Mummy.



"The Mummy": Only one reason why Steve Skeates is tops.

Oldtimers Carl Wessler, Reed Crandall and Tom Sutton returned to the Warren fold. While oldsters Adolfo Abellán and Fernando Fernandez found us for the first time.

This was the year artist Auraleon discovered he liked drawing women and panthers. While old reliable Jose Bea kept churning out classic affer classic.

And while all this was going on, some warped kid up in Canada with a Bezaire name kept trying to sell us his art. We

bought some of his stories instead! And poor Budd Lewis down in Louisiana didn't get Moench credit at all for writing about his "Most Private Terror."

A productive year for sure. Lots of pages. Lots of art and stories. Lots of headaches for editor Bill DuBay and assistants Jim Stenstrum and Bill Mohaley. The first aid chest was stocked with Excedrin... while publisher James Warren basked in the sun-browned sand of the Bahamas, the Hamptons, and that

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COVERS

## ENRICH

There seemed to be no Warren Award category for Enrich. But because of his enthralling VAMPIRELLA covers, he was voted this much-deserved Special Award. Enrich's talent for color and realism is surpassed by none. He is truly one of the world's best artists.



Enrich: Excellent color, excellent art, one of the world's best!

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR ALL-AROUND EXCELLENCE

## RICHARD CORBEN

Rich Corben is one hell of a talent. But to Warren Publishing he's much more than that. He's a guy you can rely on. Rich pours his heart into his work. He constantly gives more than 100% of himself. Rich, we thank you... for your talent, drive, and friendship.



What's said about a super-talent who gives all? Rich Corben!

wonderful vacationland on the Sinai. But if you think 1973 was the year of Warren, you've got to be here for 1974. You'll be in good company with Jeff Jones, Neal Adams, John Severin and Frank Frazetta. We'll have a new magazine by Will Eisner. More stories by your old favorites. And the best illustrators this side of the comics field. Nineteen seventy three was out best year yet. But 1974 will be the year of the Warren magazines!

# SUPER-SPECIAL TWO-PAGE GIANT SELECTION OF PAPERBACK BOOKS!

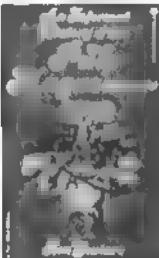
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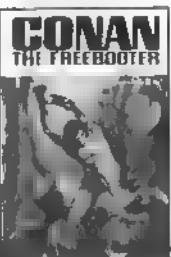
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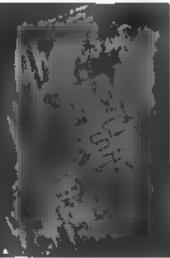
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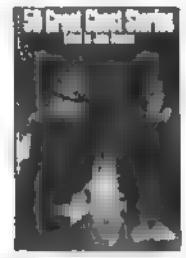
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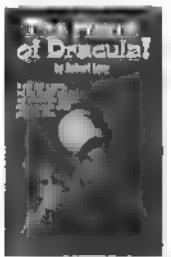
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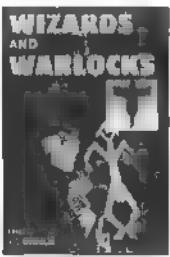
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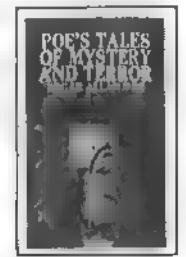
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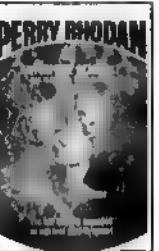
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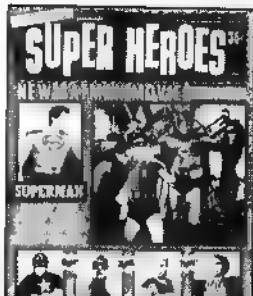
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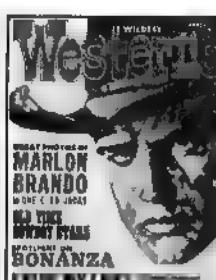
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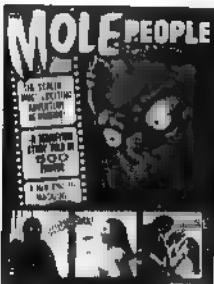
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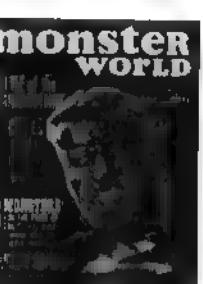
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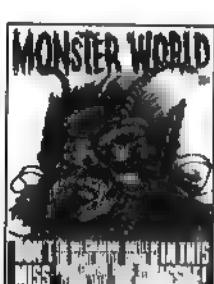
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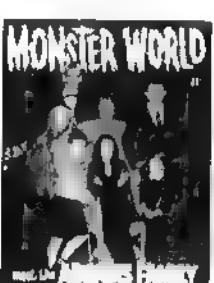
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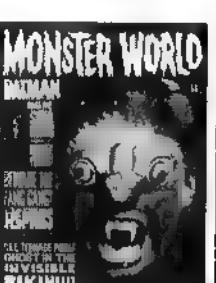
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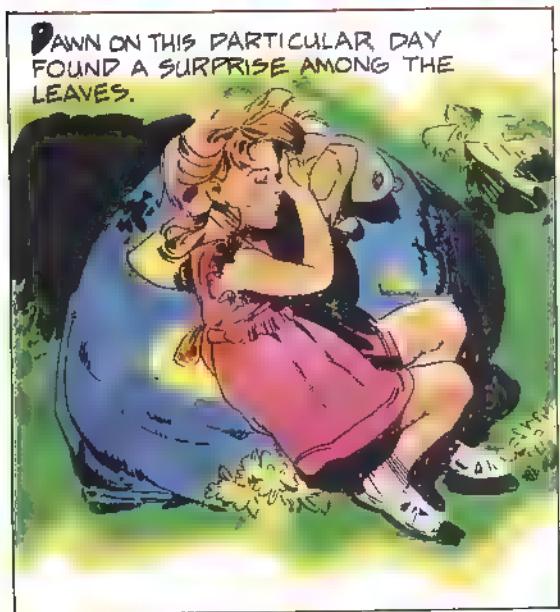
# HARRY

jeff jones

ROSES ARE RED  
VIOLETS ARE BLUE...



DAWN ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY  
FOUND A SURPRISE AMONG THE  
LEAVES.

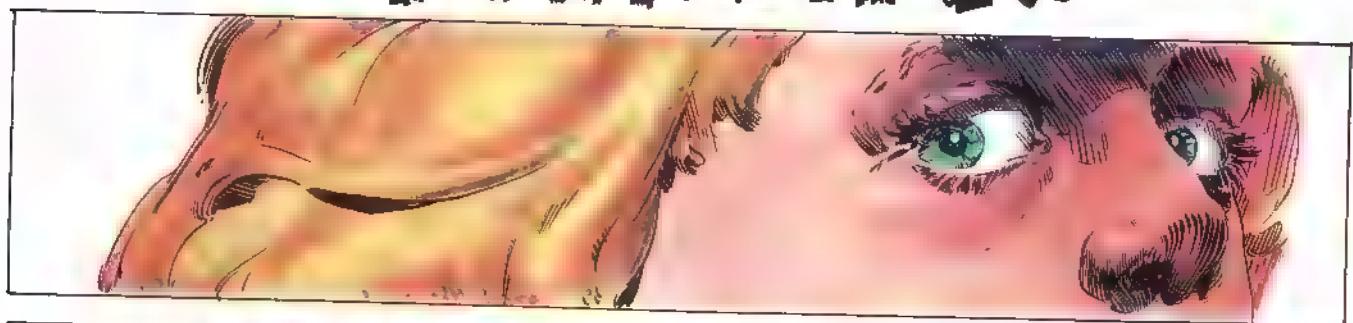


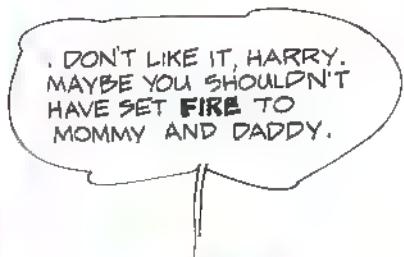
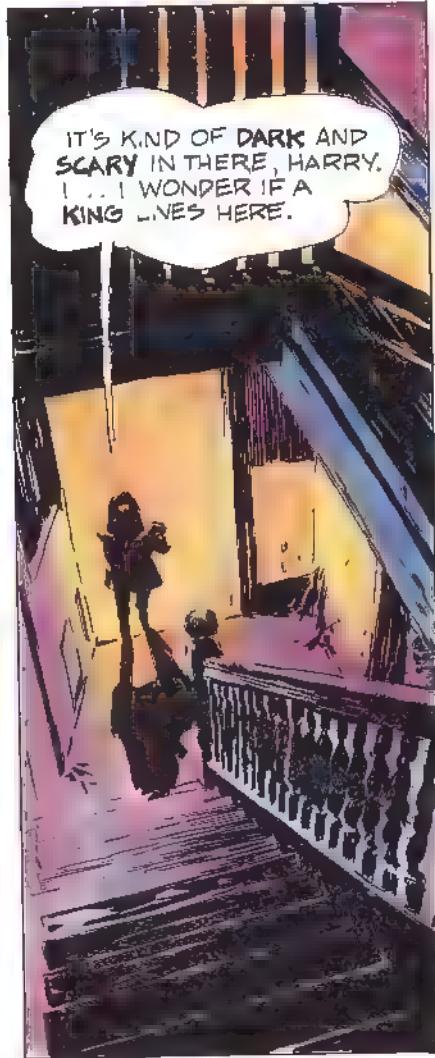
THE MORNING WAS ALIVE WITH BOUNDARY  
AND HUNGRY WITH CHANGE.



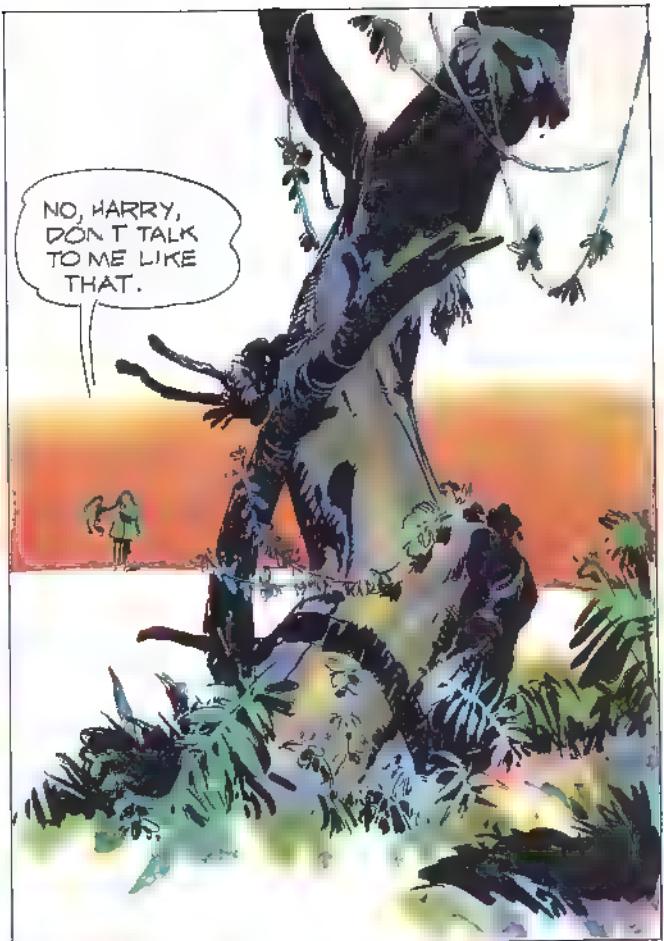


# AAAWWWKK!











# DEAD RUN

THE STARS WERE FADING AROUND HIM AND HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHY.

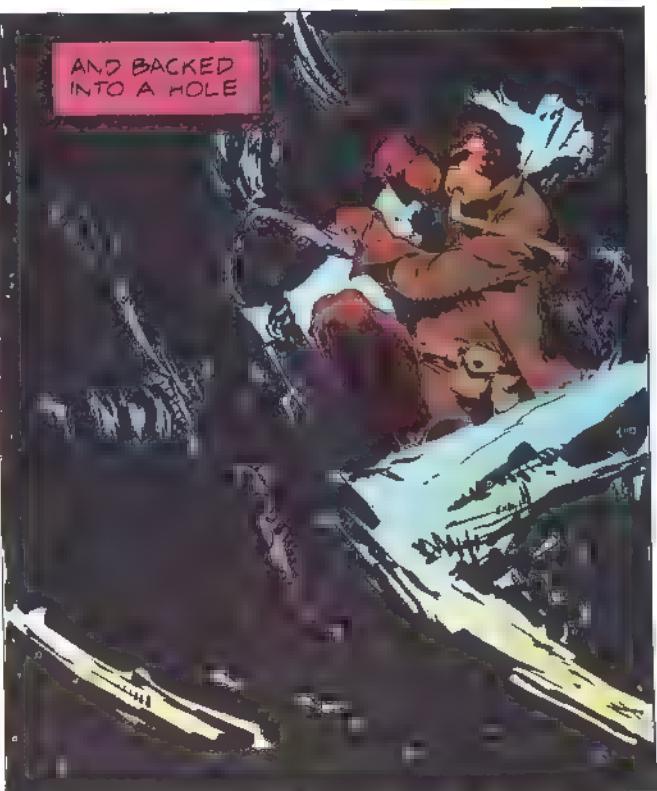
AND NOW A TERROR WAS STALKING HIM AND CLOSING IN FAST. ALTHOUGH HE COULDN'T SEE IT YET, ITS CHOKING PRESENCE GRIPPED HIS CHEST.

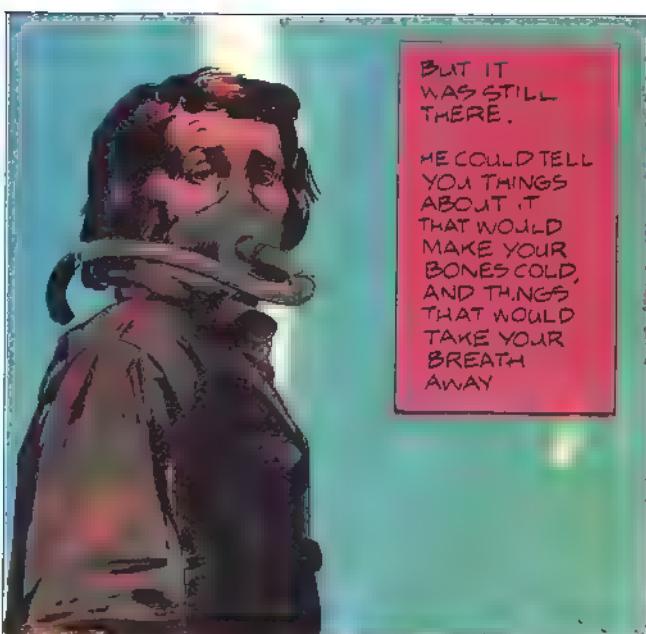


BREATHLESSLY HE SLOWED TO ADJUST THE RUBBER AIR HOSE.



AND BACKED INTO A HOLE





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COUSIN EERIE



UNCLE CREEPY painted by SAMJULIAN 28" x 20" of pulsating pigments. Compliment to Eerie, companion to 6' Vampi #2948, UNCLE CREEPY POSTER, \$2.00

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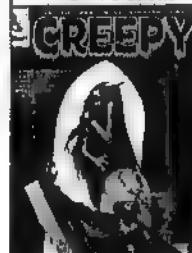
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Anyone  
who sub-  
scribes to  
VAMPIRELLA  
Magazine  
for 2  
years!  
You can't  
lose on  
this  
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6  
FEET  
TALL

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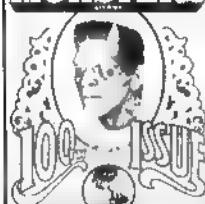


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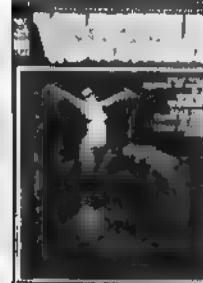
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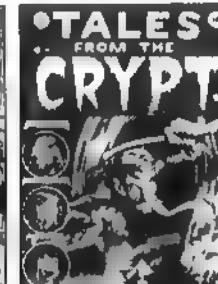
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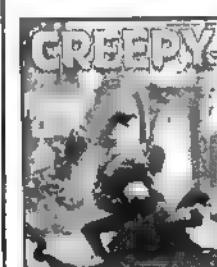
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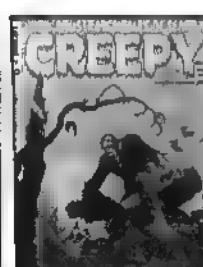
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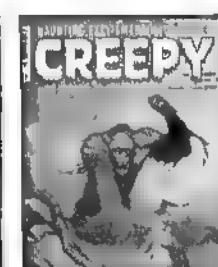
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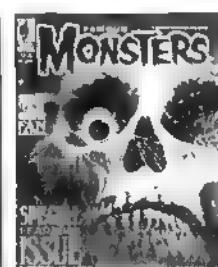
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# PROLOGUE

ANTONIO  
PUICELLI...

LUIS  
MARTINO...

MEN OF  
VENGEANCE...

MEN OF THE  
BROTHER-  
HOOD...

... MEN  
KILLED IN  
COLD BLOOD  
BY DINO  
ARMANI!

DINO! BACK  
ALREADY? DID  
YOU FINISH  
YOUR BUSINESS  
IN SICILY?

YES, JIMMIE! DOESN'T TAKE ME  
LONG TO DO SOMETHING ONCE I PUT  
MY MIND TO IT. BUT YOU KNOW THAT.  
I TOOK YOU INTO THIS BUSINESS...  
TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING... GAVE  
YOU ANYTHING YOU WANTED...

YOU SHOULDN'T  
HAVE GOTTEN  
GREEDY WHILE  
I WAS GONE,  
JIMMIE!



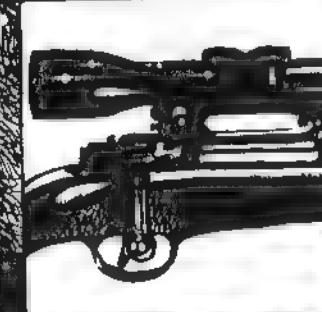
ANGELA  
BELONGS TO  
ME, AND NO  
ONE ELSE.



WITNESS DINO ARMANI. PITILESS, CALCULATING, DEVOID OF MERCY OR COMPASSION. AN ALTOGETHER RARE SPECIE OF ANIMAL WHO KILLS WITHOUT EFFORT OR REMORSE.



NOT MERELY A CORRUPTION. HE LIVES ON THE GREED OF HIS ENEMIES AND THE Grief OF HIS VICTIMS. NOT SIMPLY A LINK IN THE ORGANIZATION, BUT A PRIME MOVER.



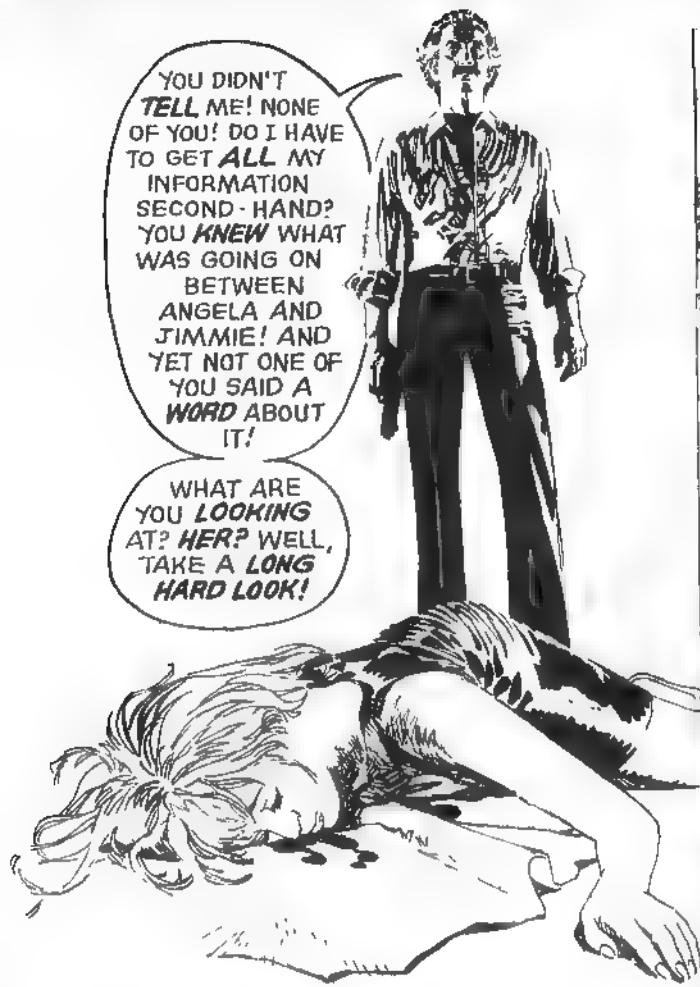
THE ARABS HAVE A WORD FOR HIM, HASHASHIN. A SINGLE-TRACK MIND, CONSCIENCE ONLY DURING THE ACTION OF MURDER, WITH ONE PURPOSE: TO KILL!

Guards

SOME SAY SUCH A MAN COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE A SOUL. TO THAT EXTENT THEY CAME CLOSEST IN THEIR DESCRIPTION, FOR DINO ARMANI WAS, IN FACT...

# THE MAN WHOSE SOUL WAS SPONGE!





YOU KNOW WHO'S THE BOSS AROUND HERE! DON'T FORCE ME TO REMIND YOU AGAIN!

NOW... THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES... BIG CHANGES... STARTING HERE AND GOING RIGHT TO THE TOP.

NO MORE WILL DINO ARMANI BE MADE A LACKEY. NOT BY THE HEADS OF THE FAMILIES... NOT BY ANYBODY. STARTING NOW DINO ARMANI WORKS FOR HIMSELF!

GOT A NEW DEAL FOR YOU BOYS. AND WITH YOUR HELP, I'M TAKING OVER!

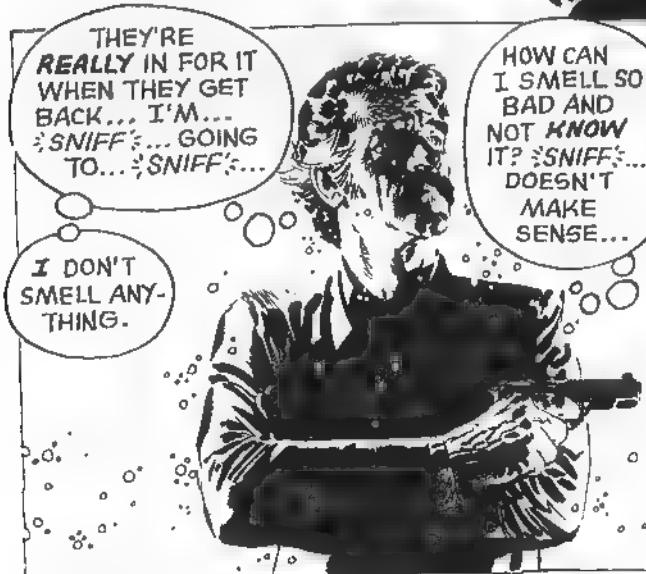
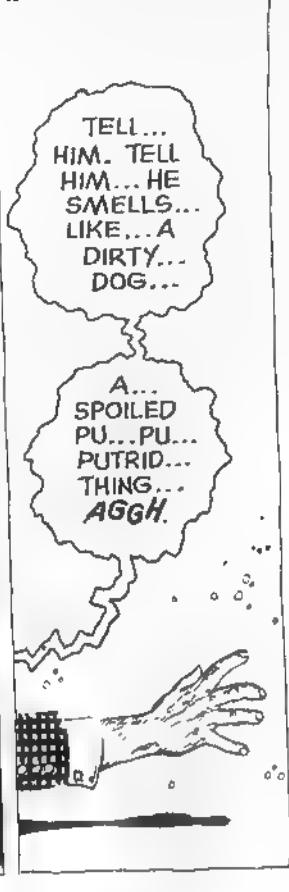


WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN? A SMELL? IS THAT A JOKE? THAT I SMELL BAD?

NO, NO, NO, DINO! I... MEAN... IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE! REALLY! JUST BACK FROM A LONG TRIP AND ALL... JUST A BAD JOKE...!

YOU SLIMY WEASEL! I'M SICK OF YOUR JOKES AND YOUR MISTAKES, AND YOUR LIES! IT STOPS NOW!





SOME TIME HAD PASSED BEFORE DINO BECAME AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF HIS PREDICAMENT. INFORMATION CAME TO HIM BY PHONE, FROM HIS MAN INSIDE...



THEY WHAT? LEFT ME? NOBODY LEAVES ME! MEN WHO WORK FOR ME... IT'S A LIFE-TIME CONTRACT! YOU TELL THEM FOR ME... THEY ARE DEAD! THEY WENT... WHERE? TO FREDRICO?



THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID, DINO! THE HEADS OF THE FAMILIES... FREDRICO, TOO... ARE MOST UNHAPPY. YOUR MEN TOLD THEM ABOUT YOUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER. IT LOOKS VERY BAD, DINO...



ANOTHER THING. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... BUT THEY TOLD ME THEY'D RATHER DIE THAN BE NEAR THAT HORRIBLE SMELL...

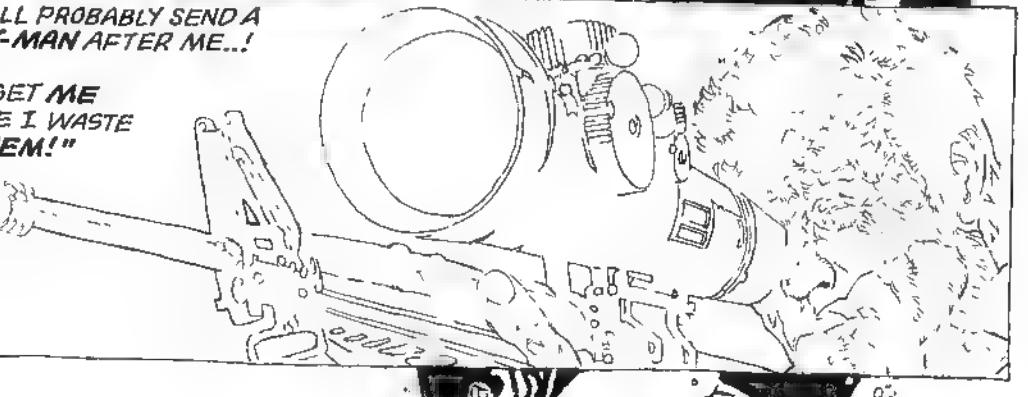
WHO? VISCCELLI? WHAT ABOUT MY MEN?



REMAIN CALM. HAVE TO THINK. IF FREDRICO AND THE OTHER FAMILY HEADS SIDE AGAINST ME, I NEED A PLAN.

I CAN'T STAY HERE, THAT'S CERTAIN. I'LL HAVE TO PULL OUT... MAKE A RUN FOR IT WHILE I STILL HAVE THE TIME...

FILTHY, STINKING TRAITORS. THEY DO THIS TO ME AFTER I TAKE THEM UNDER MY WING. BUT I'LL BE BACK! NOTHING WILL SAVE THEIR SLIMY HIDES!

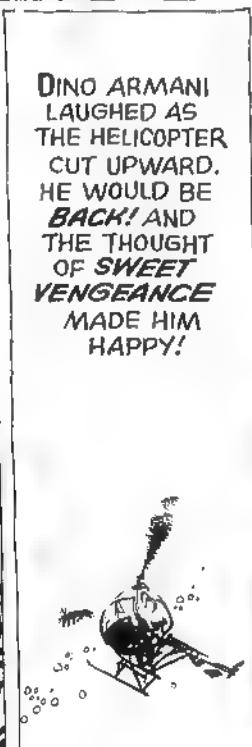


"THEY'LL PROBABLY SEND A HIT-MAN AFTER ME...!"

...TO GET ME BEFORE I WASTE THEM!"



FREDRICO ARMANI BENT FORWARD UNCONSCIOUSLY. THE OTHERS TOOK IT FOR AUTHORIZATION, AND HE DID NOT OPPOSE IT. THE DECISION TO ELIMINATE DINO FOLLOWED!



THIS MAN IS TOTALLY EVIL... AND LIKE A RABID DOG, HE MUST BE DESTROYED.

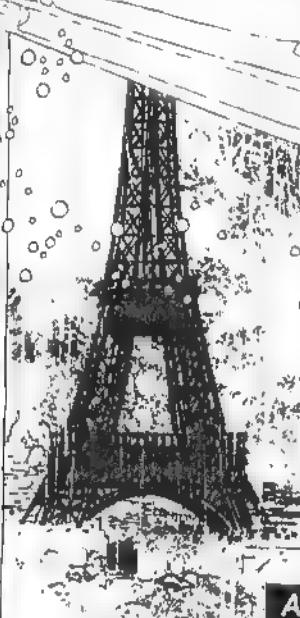




**DINO ARMANI RAN. A CONTRACT ON HIS LIFE HAD BEEN SIGNED BY ALL THE FAMILIES. LIVING IT WAS NOW A MATTER OF KEEPING ON THE MOVE.**



THEY CLOSE IN. IN LONDON:  
IN PARIS. VIENNA. BERLIN.  
DINO ARMANI WAS RUNNING  
OUT OF CITIES. AND IN EACH  
CITY, THEY DREW CLOSER.



AND THE SMELL, THE  
ROTTED ODOR THAT ENGULFED  
HIM WAS LEADING THEM TO  
HIM. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO  
STOP FOR LONG IN ANY ONE  
PLACE...HIS TRACKS WERE  
INEVITABLY PICKED UP.



THEY  
**NEVER**  
LET UP! IT'S  
THAT SMELL!  
THAT DAMNED  
SMELL!!



HIS PURSUITORS CONTINUED  
THEIR PRACTICE OF PAGEAN



OBVIOUSLY, DINO THOUGHT, THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THE BLOODHOUNDS WAS TO GET RID OF THE SCENT.



I'M VERY SORRY,  
MONSIEUR ARMANI.  
YOUR CASE IS FAR TOO  
OBSCURE FOR US TO  
DARE ANYTHING  
AT THIS TIME.

HERR ARMANI,  
THE ANALYSIS  
REPORTS ARE ALL  
NEGATIVE. ALL OUR  
EQUIPMENT SHOWS  
NOTHING. IT'S A  
TOTALLY UNKNOWN  
PHENOMENA.

IT'S INCREDIBLE, SIGNORE  
ARMANI. THERE IS NO MEDICAL  
PRECEDENT. PERHAPS IF I COULD  
ONLY PERSUADE YOU TO REMAIN  
HERE A FEW WEEKS...

YOUR CASE ESCAPES ALL  
PRESENT MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.  
AND, I WOULD SAY, ALL HUMAN  
KNOWLEDGE! YOUR CURE, VERY  
FRANKLY, RESTS IN HANDS BE-  
YOND EARTHLY LIMITATIONS!



"BEYOND EARTHLY LIMITATIONS!"  
YES, MAYBE. THE MALADY AS  
THE CURE. PERHAPS THIS WAS  
A KIND OF PUNISHMENT... FROM  
ABOVE...!

DINO ARMANI CONTEMPLATED  
HIS HOPELESSNESS. THE ACRID  
STILETTO-SHARP ODOR WAS  
IN FACT HIS ONLY REAL ENEMY.

THE HAMMER OF GOD? THE  
LORD BEATING HIM TO DEATH  
WITH A BLUNT INSTRUMENT?  
DINO ARMANI DID NOT KNOW.



HE ONLY KNEW THAT,  
MADLY, DESPERATELY,  
HE ONLY WANTED TO  
LIVE.

AND THE CLINGING  
STENCH MARKED HIM  
LIKE A MOVING  
TARGET...!

BY CHANCE OR CIRCUM-  
STANCE, OR EVEN SOME-  
THING ELSE, FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS AFTERWARD, DINO  
DID MANAGE TO REMAIN  
ALIVE, BUT JUST ALIVE.

THE ROTTING SMELL ABOUT  
HIM WAS LIKE A FENCE  
THAT SEPARATED HIM  
FROM ALL BUT THE MEAGER-  
EST OF EXISTENCES! THE  
SUFFERING AND TORMENT  
HE LIVED WITH DAILY  
BITED ITSELF ON HIS  
FACE, AND TIME ITSELF  
GREW INDIGNANT OF HIM.



PHEWW!  
JEEZUS, DID YOU  
DO THAT, ARTIE?

AWW, GOWAN,  
WATCHA TALKIN'  
'BOUT? I DIDN'  
DO NUTHIN'.

IN ANOTHER  
TIME, I COULD'VE  
HAD HIM DUMPED  
FOR THAT. BUT NOW...  
EVERWHERE I GO...  
I CAN'T EVEN APPROACH  
ANYBODY TO BEG A COIN.  
EVEN FILTHY DRUNKS  
WON'T COME NEAR  
ME...



WHOA! IT'S  
COMIN' FROM THAT  
GUY! HEY, YOU!  
FELLA! GET  
OUTTA HERE!



ASH AND SOOT SURROUND THE PRISONERS WITHIN ONE PRISONER, MORE THAN OTHERS, FEELS ITS UNNATURAL DREAD.

DINO ARMANI, ONCE THE HATED AND FEARED UNDERWORLD LEADER, REDUCED TO A DERELICT, A SMELLING HUSK, FACELESS, NEITHER HATING NOR HATED, A BROKEN MAN... ROTTING IN HIS OWN EVIL... SITTING AT THE BOTTOM AFTER HIS LONG FALL FROM POWER!



LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN BY HIS ENEMIES, THE CONTRACT ON HIS LIFE EXPIRED! YET THROUGH THE YEARS HE MOVES ON, AIMLESSLY! THE SMELL OF HIS OWN EVIL BECOMING MORE AND MORE OBSCURED BY THE CORRUPTION AROUND HIM.

THE SAME DISEASE HE HAD BEEN INFILCTED WITH WAS NOW ATTACKING THE ENTIRE WORLD AROUND HIM.



THE UGLY SMELL OF POVERTY, HUNGER... DISCRIMINATION... AND NATIONS' DISGRACES!



DINO ARMANI, NOWHERE TO GO, LIVING, SO PRECIOUS TO HIM, BECOMES A MISERABLE EXISTENCE... WALLOWING IN THE TOXIC BREATH OF CIVILIZATION... TAKING MORE THAN IT GIVES!

IT CLOSES IN ON HIM, THE CORRUPTION, THE GARBAGE, THE FUTILITY OF ANY BUT THE BLEAKEST OF FUTURES...

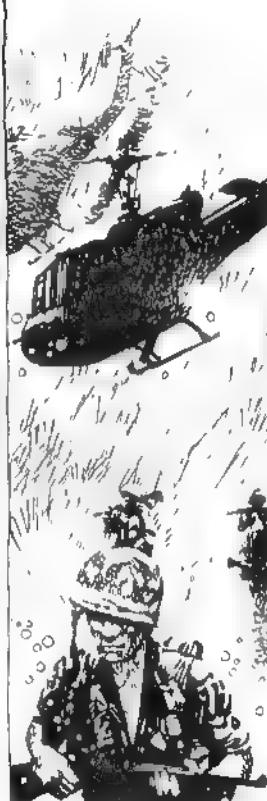
IT BREATHES DOWN HIS NECK... HOT AND HEAVY...



THE EVIL STENCH OF DRUGS... OF FLYING ON AN ETHEREAL HIGH TO THE ULTIMATE WASTE!



THE DEATHLY STINK OF WAR... POLITICIANS BUYING THEM WHOLESALE...



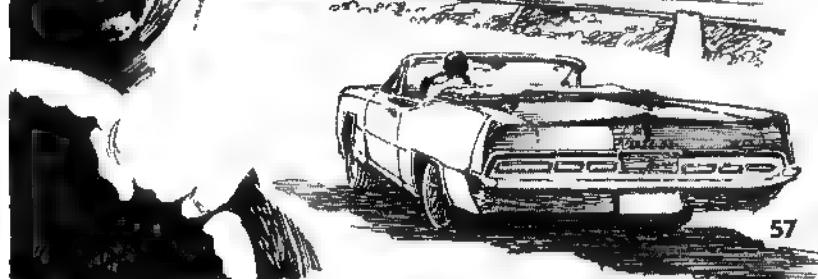
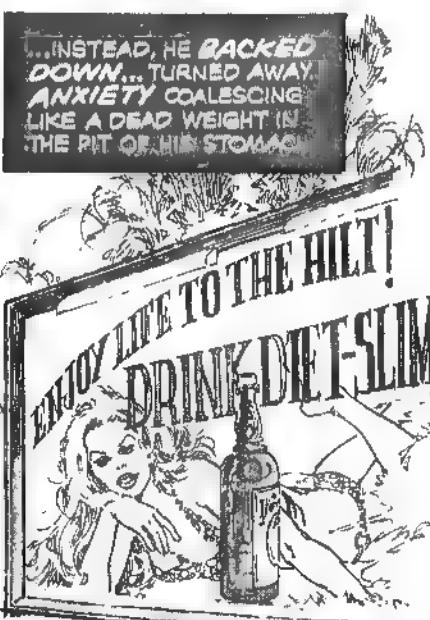
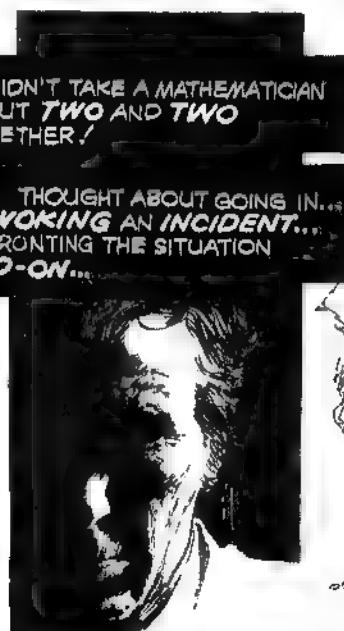
...THE SMELL OF A WORLD DYING... ROTTING FROM THE EVILNESS WITHIN...

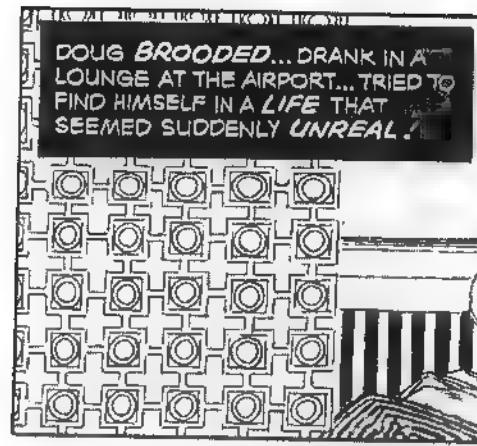
...UNTIL AT LAST, THE SMELL BECOMES TOO MUCH EVEN FOR DINO ARMANI...

BANG!

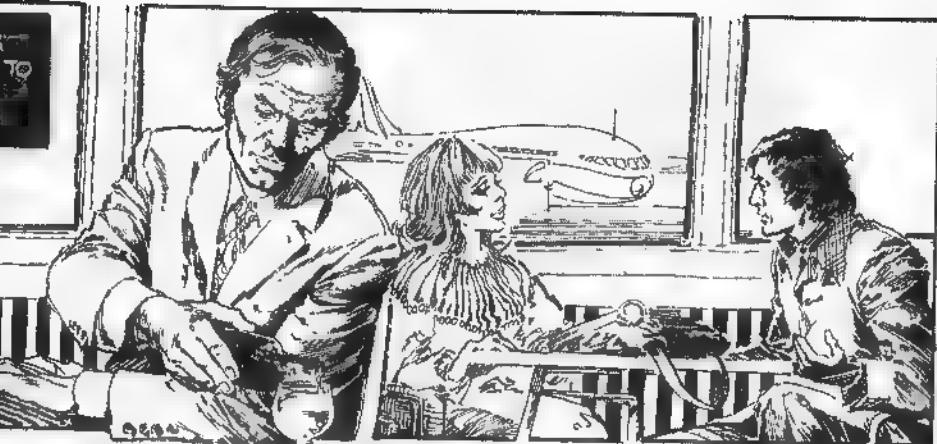
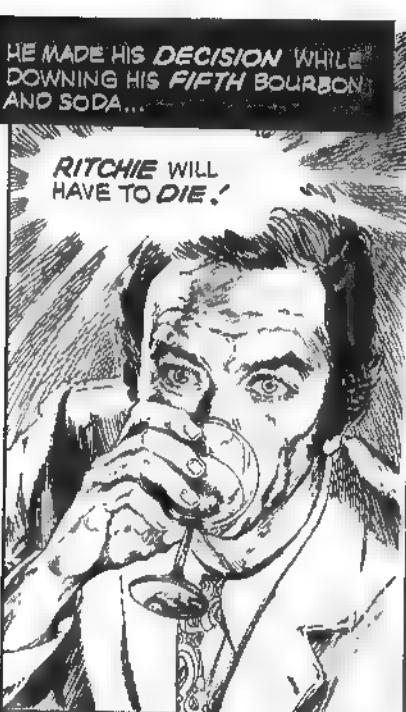
## PROLOGUE







DOUG BROODED... DRANK IN A LOUNGE AT THE AIRPORT... TRIED TO FIND HIMSELF IN A LIFE THAT SEEMED SUDDENLY UNREAL!

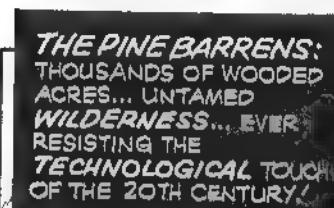
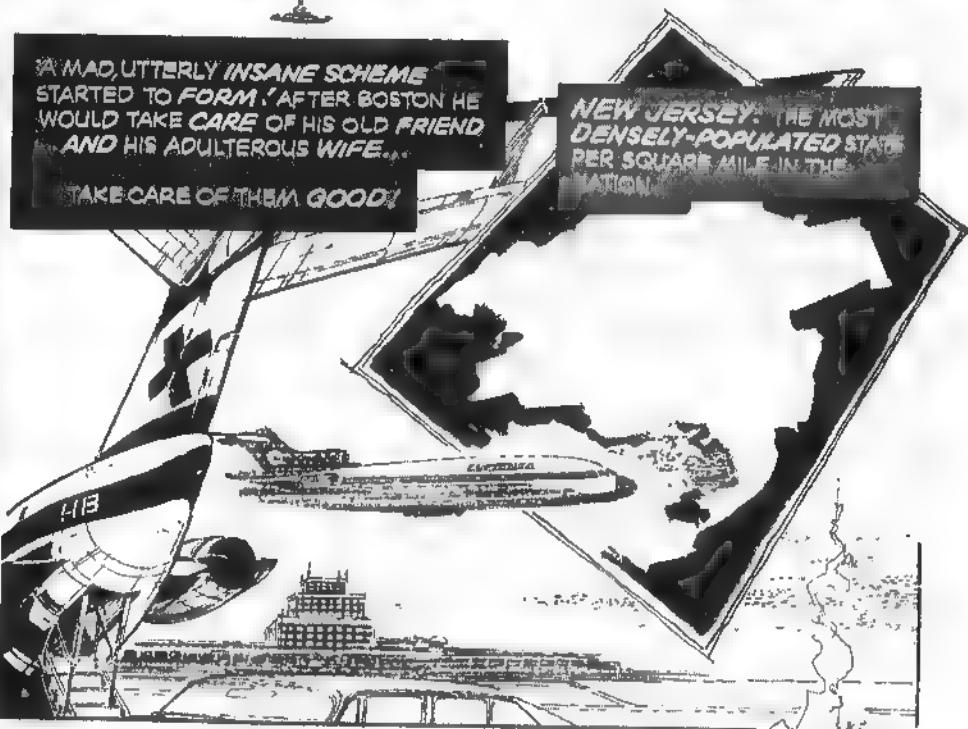


HE MADE HIS DECISION WHILE DOWNING HIS FIFTH BOURBON AND SODA...

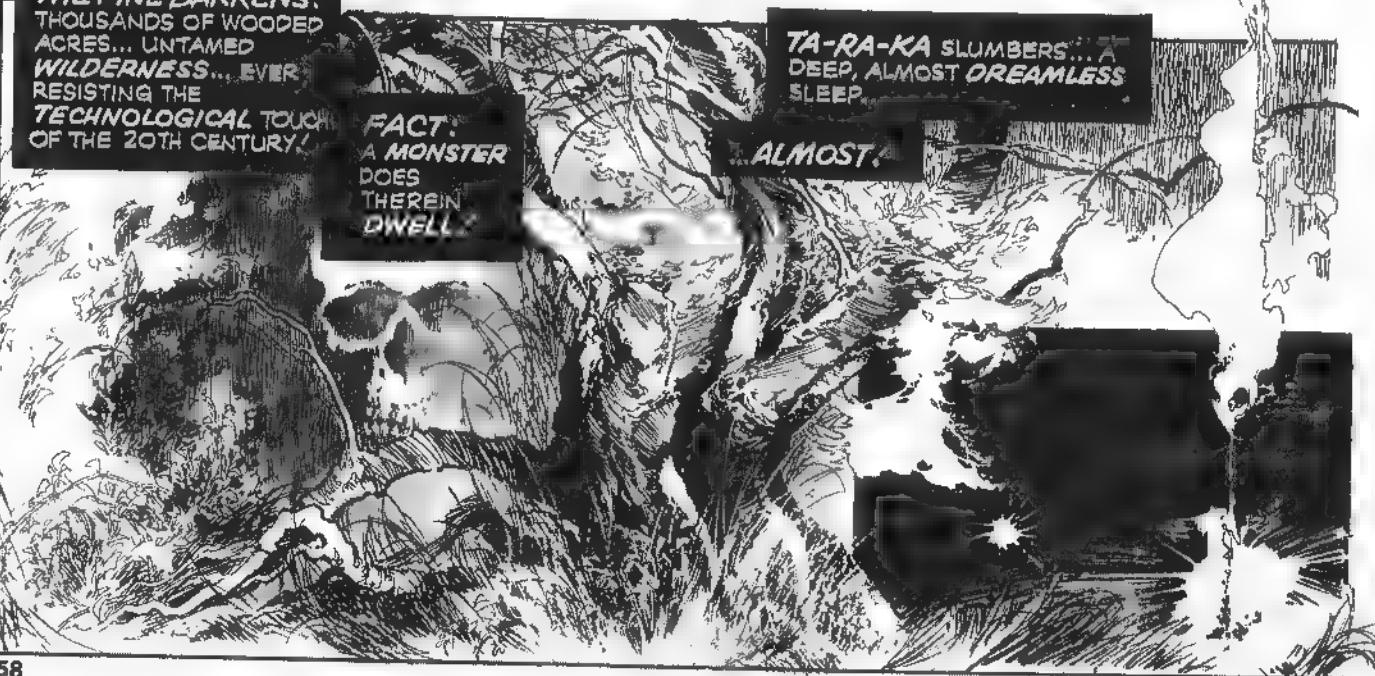
A MAD, UTTERLY INSANE SCHEME STARTED TO FORM. AFTER BOSTON HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF HIS OLD FRIEND AND HIS ADULTEROUS WIFE...

TAKE CARE OF THEM GOOD!

NEW JERSEY: THE MOST DENSELY-POPULATED STATE PER SQUARE MILE IN THE NATION



FACT:  
A MONSTER DOES THEREIN DWELL





THE DEMON SLEEPS... TWISTED IMAGES  
TURN WITHIN AN EVIL, ETHEREAL  
CONSCIOUSNESS... HEAVENLY-CURSED  
SCENES OF BLOOD-LUST AND DEATH!

WHAT DO THREE PEOPLE  
AND A SLEEPING DEMON  
HAVE IN COMMON? IT'S A  
RIDDLE YOU MAY NOT  
WANT TO UNRAVEL.

# JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!

STORY: RICH MARGOPOULOS / ART: RAMON TORRENTS

THE DEMON HAS POSSESSED  
MANY BEINGS... RESIDED IN  
COUNTLESS FORMS!

ONCE HE WAS A FETID  
IDOL-GOD IN ANCIENT  
INDIA... DEMANDING  
ENDLESS HUMAN SACRIFICES  
AS APPEASEMENT...

...THEN AN EVIL DRUID  
PRIEST... WHOSE FLASHING  
BLADE DEFILED THE SOFT  
FLESH OF VESTAL VIRGINS...



...AND A FLEEING WITCH -  
WRAITH IN OLD SALEM...  
EXORCISED BY A BISHOP'S  
CALL TO HIS GOD!



SUCH THOUGHTS! SUCH DEMENTED,  
DEVIL-FRAUGHT DREAMS! WHEN  
TA-RA-KA WAKENS HE MUST  
IMPOSE HIS WILL ANEW... ON A  
BEWILDERED WORLD!

BUT FOR NOW PRAISE GOD,  
THE DEMON SLEEPS...

RITCHIE! SINCE  
YOU'RE A FREE LANCE  
WRITER, I THOUGHT  
THIS MIGHT APPEAL  
TO YOU!

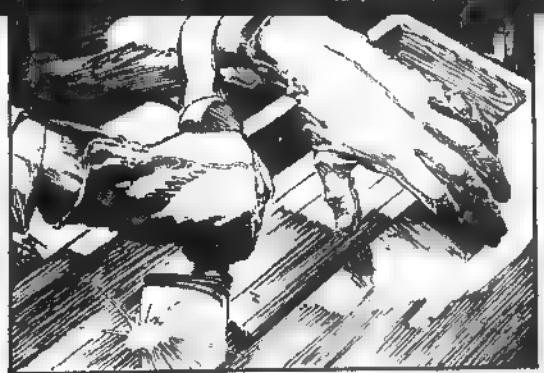
DAMN RIGHT! A  
TRIP TO THE PINE  
BARRENS TO CATCH  
A DEVIL!

BUT DOUG...  
HOW CAN YOU BE  
SURE THERE IS  
SUCH A THING?

CHECK OUT  
THESE OLD NEWS  
CLIPPINGS!

IN 1955 TWO  
HUNTERS WERE  
FOUND DISMEMBERED...  
TORN LIMB FROM LIMB!

...AND ABOUT  
THREE YEARS AGO... A  
HERMIT WAS SCARED TO  
DEATH! HIS DOG WAS  
LATER FOUND...  
MAULED!



THE GLORY OF THOSE OLD DAYS...  
THE DEMON REMEMBERS...! OH, IT  
WAS GOOD!

SUSAN!  
CAN YOU COME IN  
HERE FOR A  
MINUTE?

YES?

UNSPECIABLY GOOD

I'VE GOT  
SOMETHING...

...FOR  
YOU!

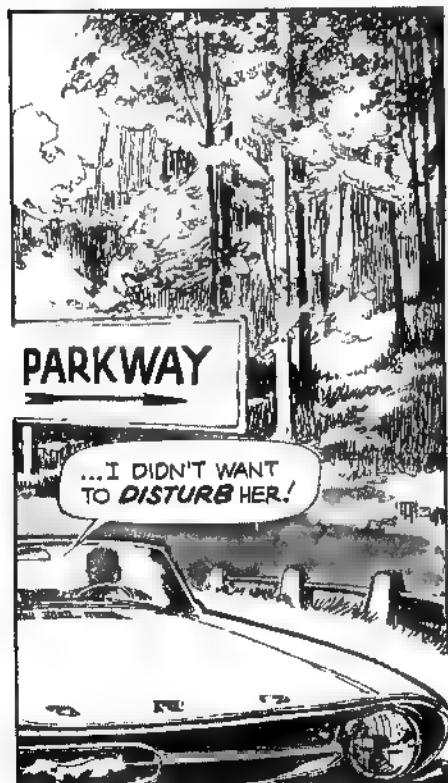
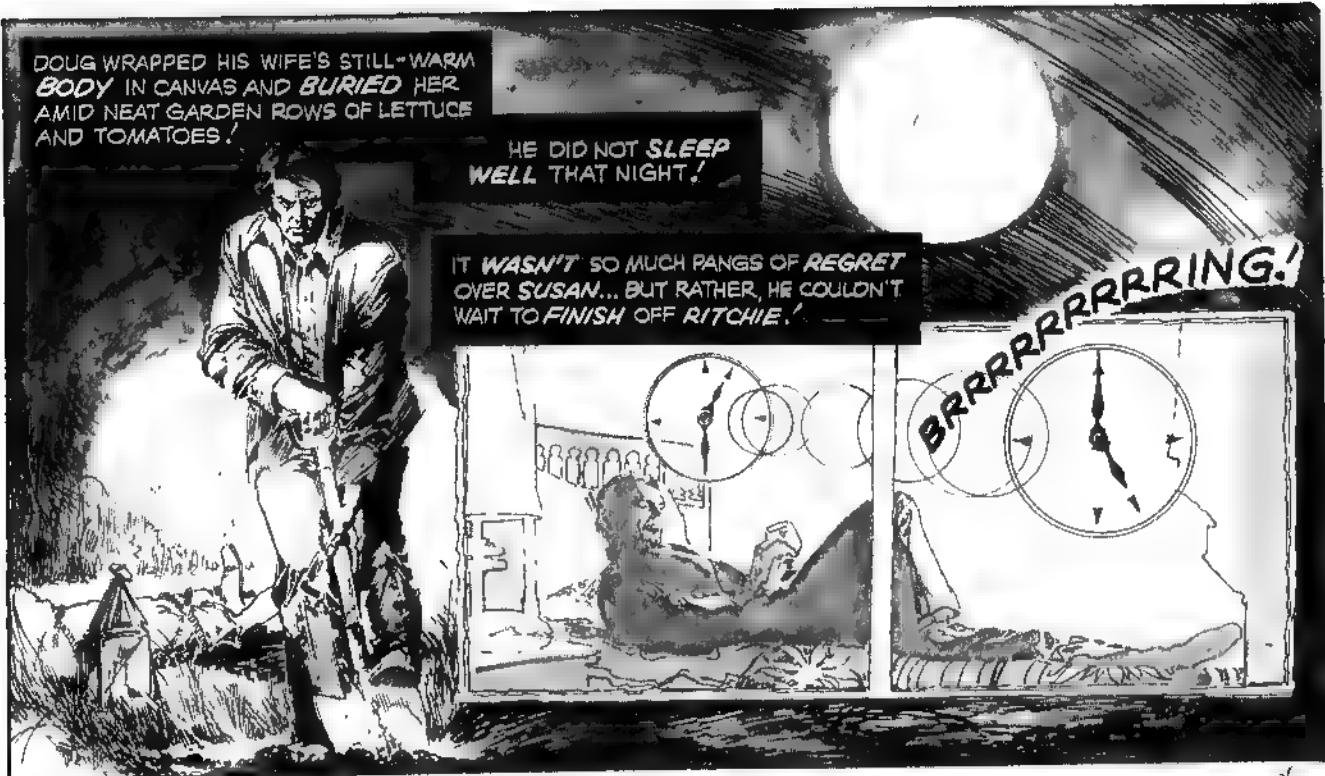
...JUST...

DOUG WRAPPED HIS WIFE'S STILL-WARM BODY IN CANVAS AND BURIED HER AMID NEAT GARDEN ROWS OF LETTUCE AND TOMATOES.

HE DID NOT SLEEP WELL THAT NIGHT!

IT WASN'T SO MUCH PANGS OF REGRET OVER SUSAN... BUT RATHER, HE COULDN'T WAIT TO FINISH OFF RITCHIE!

BRRRRRRRRRING!



HOURS OF DRIVING... THEN HOURS OF WALKING... UNTIL...





TA-RA-KA STARS

WHO DARES DISTURB THE  
DEMON OF THE WOODS?

BLURRED  
EYES TREMBLE  
OPEN...  
FASTEN ON A  
PEEBLE  
HUMAN  
FORM!

WHAT IS THE MAN DOING?  
HURRIEDLY FEEDING BRASS  
PELLETS INTO A METAL  
AND WOOD TUBE!

YES! THE MAGIC STINGS...  
BUT IT IS NOT POTENT  
ENOUGH!

THE MORTAL LACKS  
THE SKILLED TOUCH OF  
AN EXORCIST!

PERHAPS IT IS A NEW  
WITCHCRAFT RITUAL...  
A PROTECTION-  
SPELL...!



MIGHTY MASSIVE LIMBS  
ENCIRCLE DOUG'S FLESH  
AND BLOOD FRAME!

TA-RA-KA PONDERS: SHOULD  
HE CRUSH HIS PREY LIKE AN  
OVER-RIPE GRAPE... OR POSSESS  
ITS BODY... RAPE ITS VERY SOUL!

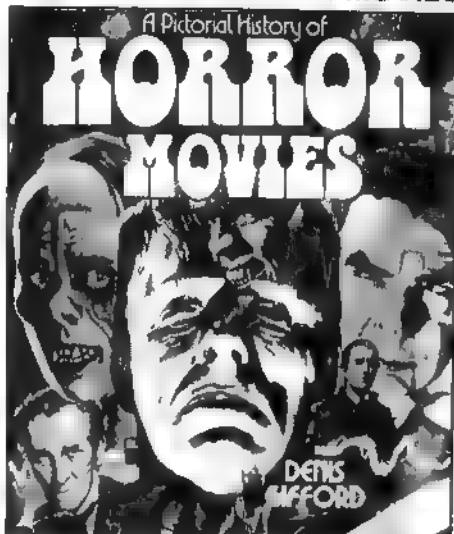


THE DEMON WEIGHS THE VALUE OF EACH  
ALTERNATIVE! IN EITHER CASE, THE  
DECISION WILL BE LIKE OLD TIMES...

...SO UNSPEAKABLY GOOD!

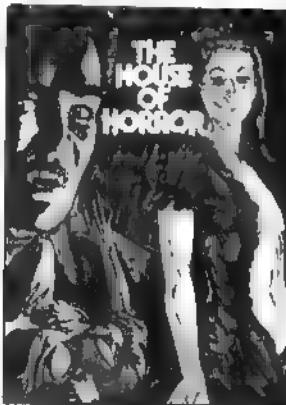
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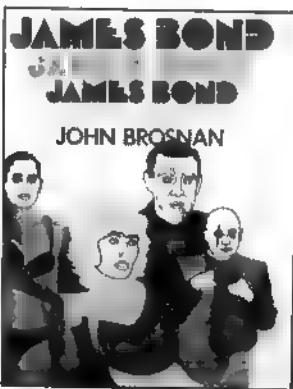
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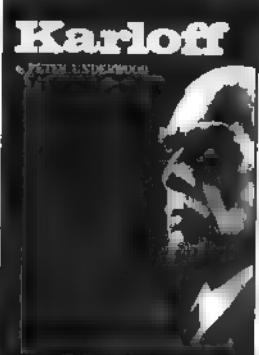
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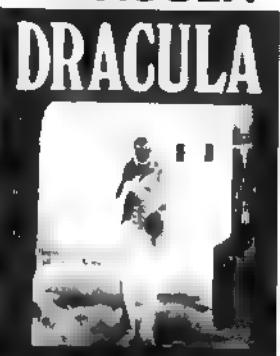
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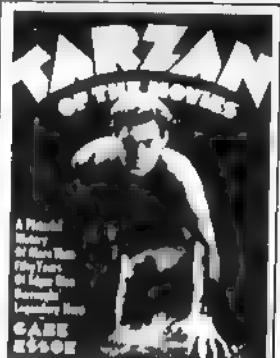
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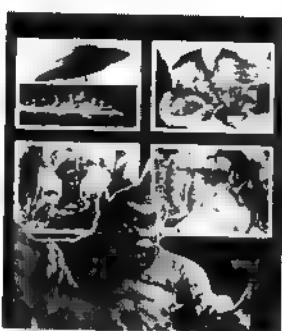


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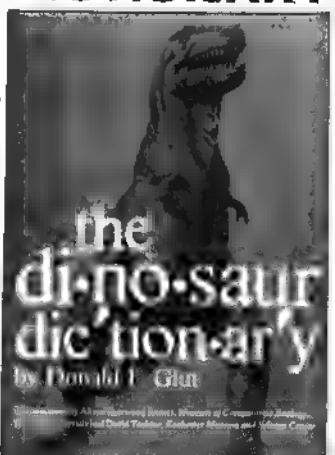
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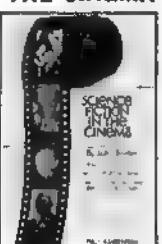
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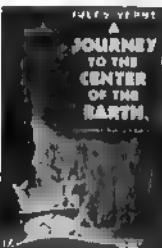
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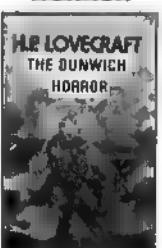
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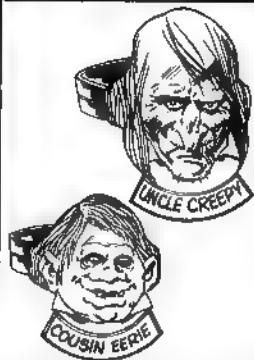
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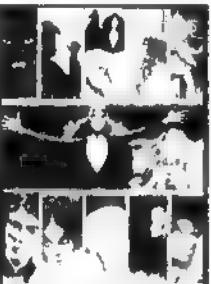
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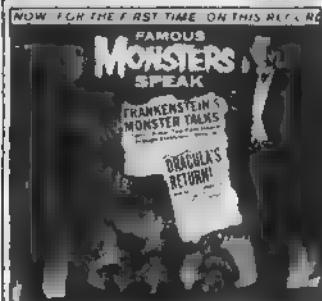
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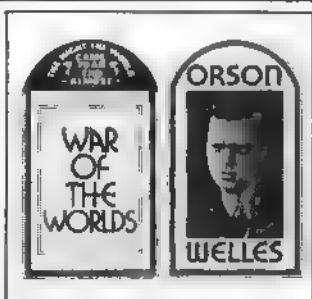
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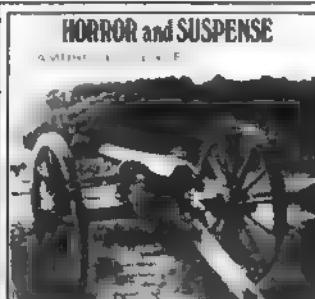
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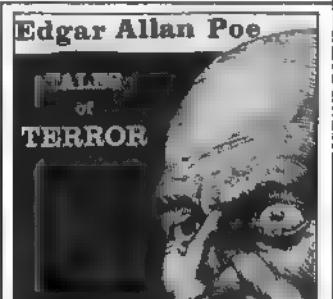
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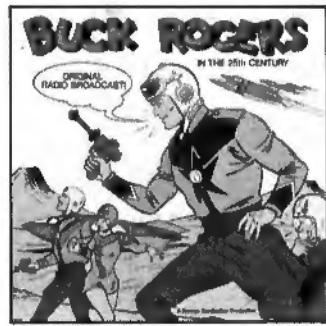
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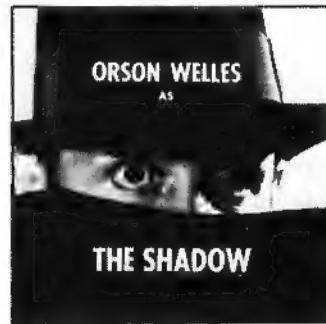
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